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See Page B-6 & B-7



Halle Berry
What lies beneath
An Interview
See ARTZ Wednesday on B-5

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October 11 - October 17, 2000

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Non-profit group courts Newark development

By Kelly Foster

The New Newark Foundation, a non-profit group located at 744 Broad St., is in the process of redeveloping an area in downtown Newark. The area is bounded by Washington Street, Central Ave., Military Park and Raymond Boulevard.



James Schmidt

The focus of development will be on the former Hahnes Department store and the Griffith Building.

The Hahnes building is a four-story 311,700 square foot building, with a 95,800 square foot basement that can hold 210 parking spots.

The Hahnes project would likely cost \$65-\$70 million.

The Griffith Building, adjacent to the Hahnes building, is 17 stories high and about 77,000 square feet. Its basement is about 8,500 square feet.

The buildings will be renovated and used for retail stores on the first floor, and residential units on the upper floors.

Most recently, potential developers were asked for financial qualifications.

City News Publisher Henry Johnson and Reporter Kelly Foster sat down for an interview with James Schmidt, executive director of the New Newark Foundation, for a question and answer session about the proposed development.

Q: What are the goals of the New Newark Foundation?

A: New Newark was established three years ago, say by Prudential and MCI/Amelia Foundation. The mission was to encourage economic revitalization in Newark.

Our main goal is to create a downtown neighborhood that has round the clock presence and you achieve that by having people live there.

Q: What type of housing will you build?

A: It will be multi-family housing, which is appropriate for the downtown area. The overall idea is to create a lively downtown environment in an area that is primarily vacant.

Q: What progress has made so far?

A: We have an option to purchase the Hahnes and Griffith buildings, which is the most prominent part of our project. And the parking lot south of it. We have asked developers for what we call the first request for expression of interest. The signs are good for redevelopment.

Q: What signs are those?

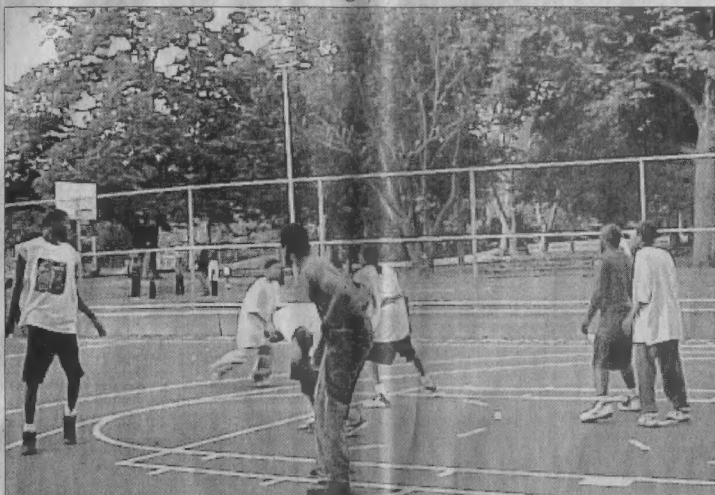
A: Well, the re-population of buildings on North Broad St. Also, improvements are being made to the college campuses, like Rutgers Law School and the proposed arena.

And people are feeling pretty positive about Newark, with NJPAC, the Bears; a lot of good signs.

Q: What is it that's preventing Newark development from moving forward, like other cities. Is that its considered black and urban?

A: Well, it's hard to say, so see **NONPROFIT** on A-8

Going North



Youth play basketball in Branch Brook Park.

Photo by Kelly Foster

Uniquely Newark: The North Ward hopes to build on its history

By Kelly Foster

Councilman Anthony Carrino is proud to live in the North Ward section of Newark. A life long resident, Carrino can't imagine calling any other place home.

"I know people, they know me, the people are friendly here," he declared. "You know your neighbors."

For that reason, Carrino was all too happy to show off his hometown during a recent car tour of the ward.

One of the more prominent features of the ward is the Forest Hills section. Palatial homes can be found in abundance. The section is roughly bordered by Second Ave., Verona Ave., Mt. Prospect Ave., and Branch Brook Park.

The mansions in Forest Hills were built in the late 19th and early 20th century around the area east of Branch Brook Park. To the west of the park, smaller homes and "mom and pop"

shops prevail.

Forest Hills, a national historic district, was developed and occupied by three major families, according to Newark Public Library Historian Charles Cummings: the Ballantines, owners of the largest brewery company in America; the Clarks, who owned thread mill factories; and the Hellers, owners of a metal pipe company.

Today, many professionals call Forest Hills Home, including teachers, doctors, lawyers, and businessmen and women, according to Carrino.

He estimates that Forest Hills is about 20 percent Black. "It's increasing all the time," said Carrino. "Most people buying homes there are Black professionals."

Various ethnic groups made their homes in the North Ward in the 1800's, said Cummings, including German, Irish, and Italians. Today, the area is largely Hispanic and Italian. African Americans are a minority in the ward.

"I would say its predominately non-Black," said Cummings.

In the center of the North Ward is Branch Brook Park. Designed by New York's Central Park planners, it is the oldest county park in the U.S., according to Cummings. The park is bordered at the northern end by U.S. route 280, and crosses Bloomfield Ave., Park Ave., and Heller Parkway. Once a formal rose garden, today, visitors can enjoy a variety of sporting activities, such as basketball, tennis, baseball, cricket and roller skating.

In contrast to the splendor of the mansions in Forest Hills are what remains of the Archbishop Walsh housing projects on Grafton Ave., in the Broadway section of the ward.

Built about 30 years ago, The projects are being knocked down and new townhomes are being built in their place, said Carrino.

"The city is knocking down all of its high rises," he continued. "The Walsh homes are

see **UNIQUELY NEWARK** A-8

Homeowner finds equity in Newark Housing Authority

By Kelly Foster

Helene Widener didn't know when she joined the Newark Housing Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program that she would one day become a homeowner and landlord. But that's where she found herself after participating in the FSS program.

Receiving Section 8 assistance and raising two children, Widener had just started a job in the Domestic Violence Department of Newark Superior Court.

Then she received a letter from the Newark Housing Authority asking her if she would be interested in joining their Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

After discovering that one of the goals of the program was being a homeowner, Widener was all set.

"I thought, 'I can do that,'" she recalled.

The program strives to create self sufficiency by helping people

get off public assistance and ultimately, becoming homeowners, said Genet Cleff, case manager for the program. "We try to help them, if they don't have a GED, or job training, or college, we evaluate them to find out what they want to do," he said.

Once participants start working, they put a portion of their rent money into an escrow account. The money is then primarily used for putting a down payment on a home, he said, but can be used for education and other personal improvement.

"We try to make sure they're self sufficient for at least 12 months before they get off the program," said Cleff. "Through the program is set up for five years, some people accomplish their goals in less time, while others need more time, he said.

Throughout the program, participants must identify and work toward reaching goals set with NHA staff.

The staff routinely monitors progress by setting up appointments



Family Self Sufficiency graduate Helene Widener

on a regular basis, calling and networking. "We'll go to whatever lengths to make them successful," said Cleff.

After about 4 years in the pro-

gram and with the \$10,000 from her escrow account, Widener bought a three-family home in Orange, which she called Cleff.

see **HOUSING AUTHORITY** A-8

We are family! Celebrities coming to Million Family March



D'Angelo

Queen Latifah



Whitney Houston

Will Smith

WASHINGTON—Hip-hop entrepreneur Russell Simmons recently announced star studded support for the Oct. 16 Million Family March in Washington, D.C., called by the leader of the Nation of Islam to rebuild families.

"I believe this march will have a dramatic effect on race relations. It's a march about the human family, rising above color and religion, symbols and creed," said Simmons, in a September statement released through his company, Rush Communications.

According to Simmons, the entertainment initiative is designed to bring the hip hop community to the Million Family March (MFM) and utilize music artists, executives and management to mobilize millions of fans around MFM's National Agenda public policy issues, voter registration, voter education and "turn-out-to-vote" campaigns in every congressional district in the United States.

"The Minister has been the greatest influence that hip hop has ever had," said Simmons, who is respected for his pioneering work in the hip hop community through Def Jam Records, a clothing line and now 360.com website.

"Min. Farrakhan will always tell the truth and the hip hop culture is on his side. I think it's so great that the Will Smiths, the Whitney Houstons — all of them — have enough heart to stand behind him."

Simmons and his wife Kimora Lee lead the co-chair committee, along with Will Smith and wife Jada Pinkett-Smith, singers Whitney Houston and husband Bobby Brown, Sean "Puffy" Combs of Bad Boy Entertainment, actress, rapper and now television talk show host Queen Latifah, Abdul Ilaq Islam of University Music and actor and comedian Chris Tucker.

Among those serving on MFM's Entertainment Committee are singers Mary J. Blige, Kelly Price, D'Angelo, and Joe; comedians Steve Harvey, Cedric the Entertainer, Bernie Mac, and D.L. Hughley.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

CRANFORD — Union County College is hosting a poetry reading featuring Robert Creeley on the Cranford campus from 7:30-9 p.m. For more information call (908) 709-7503.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

WOODBIDGE (through Nov 5th) — The Barons Art Center is hosting the exhibition "A Tribute to Vintage Motorcycles" on the facilities from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. For more information call 732-634-0413.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

PLAINFIELD — YWCA of Plainfield and North Plainfield is sponsoring "Week Without Violence" on October 14 (Friday, Oct. 14, 2000). For information call (908) 756 - 3500 ext. 115.

MONTCCLAIR — Girls Scouts of Greater Essex and Hudson Counties will host its annual Fun Walk Program at Edgemont Park at 9:30 a.m. For more information call (973) 746-8200 ext. 123.

NEWARK — UMDNJ will host a health forum on the facilities from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. To RSVP call (973) 972-1025.

LEDGEWOOD — Fullerton Home and Garden Showplace is hosting its second annual Fall Festival at the facilities from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information call (973) 827-5900.

PLAINFIELD — Virginia Deberry and Donna Grant, the authors of 'Tryin' to Sleep in the Bed You Made' are back, with a novel 'Far From the Tree'. They will appear at Outstory Books & Gifts store on South Avenue at 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. For more information call (908) 755 - 8800.

SCOTCH PLAINS — Union Catholic Regional High School hosts the Holiday Gift Market & Craft Fair. For more information call (908) 889-1600.

JERSEY CITY — NJCU will host and open house from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information call 1-888-441-NJCU.

HOWELL — Monmouth County Park System will sponsor its Timberbrook Triathlon at the Manasquan Reservoir. For more information call (732) 618-3905.

NEWARK — NJHS is hosting "If these walls could talk: A NJHS Mystery!" to find out what the building was used as. It begins at 10:00 a.m. For more information call (973) 596-8500.

WYCKOFF — The Bergen County Department of Parks is hosting "The World of Mushrooms" at the McPaul Environmental Center at 2 p.m. For more information call 201-891-5571.

RAHWAY — Union County Arts Center is hosting the one-man show "Mark Twain" at 8 p.m. For more information call (732) 499-8226.

MANALAPAN — Monmouth County Library is hosting "Alice Paul Archives Day" at the library at 12:30 p.m. For more information call (732) 431-7310.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

MORRISTOWN — The Morris County Museum is hosting a cruise to visit a castle along the Hudson River. For more information call (973) 534-0454.

LINCOLN — The Monmouth County Park System is hosting a trip to "Oquaniqui Bar Harbor Me." for 5 days and 4 nights. For more information call (732) 842-4000.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

FREEHOLD — Monmouth County Park System is hosting Turkey Park Swamp Day from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information call (732) 842-4000.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

Fax community calendar events to: 973-642-5444. Send to: City News Calendar, 111 Mulberry St., Suite 11-F, Newark, NJ 07102. E-mail to: citynews.news@hotmail.com. Send information at least three weeks prior to the event.

WAYNE — William Paterson University is hosting an open house for graduate students at the student center ballrooms from 5 to 8 p.m. For more information call 973-720-2418.

JERSEY CITY — Storyteller Debra Piri will perform at NJCU from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information call 201-200-3214.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

ATLANTIC CITY — Sixth Annual African American Male Conference presents "Youth Today - Leaders Tomorrow" on October 20 and 21, 2000. Call for reservations at (609) 344-0535 or (609) 407 - 9612.

NEW YORK — The Lincoln Center will host two concerts of music by Frank Loesser, on Friday, October 20, and Alice Tully Hall Saturday, October 21 at 8 p.m. For tickets, call (212) 721 - 6500.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

NEWARK — The NJ Historical Society presents "What A Relief" at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. For information, call (973) 596-8500.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

WYCKOFF — The Bergen County Department of Parks is hosting a demonstration on apple cidering at the McPaul Environmental Center at 2 p.m. For more information call 201-891-5571.

MORRISTOWN — The Bickford Theatre presents the musical play "Blithe Spirit." For more information and show times call (973) 538-0454.

LINCROFT — The Monmouth County Parks System is hosting "Salem, MA Haunted Happenings" an overnight trip to Massachusetts. For more information call (732) 842-4000.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

WYCKOFF (through 27th) — The Bergen County Department of Parks is hosting its annual Halloween Hayride between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. for at the McPaul Environmental Center. For more information call 201-891-5571.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

IRVINGTON — The Urban League of Essex County is offering free homebuyer education seminars from 6-8:30 p.m. For more information (973) 624-9539 ext. 104.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

MORRISTOWN — The Morris Museum will host a tour of Museum of Modern Art and The Lincoln Center. The bus will depart at 8:45 a.m. and return approximately at 5:30 p.m. For reservations, call (973) 538 - 0454 Ext. 250.

LIVINGSTON — Livingston Wealth Management is hosting a seminar on avoiding investment mistakes between 9a.m. - 11a.m. For more information call 1-877-878-2441.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

NEWARK — The NJ Historical Society presents the "Halloween Community Family Festival" from 12-4 p.m. For more information, call (973) 596-8500.

RAHWAY — Union County Arts Center is hosting "Superludge" at 3 p.m. For more information call (732) 499-8226.

PLAINFIELD — Plainfield High School, 920 Park Avenue, is hosting "Families For Non-Violence. A Celebration of Peace" at 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the cafeteria.

MORRISTOWN — The Morris Museum will have a month long celebration of New Jersey Arts and Humanities and a Halloween festival on October 28 and 29 at 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information call (973) 538-0454 or visit www.morrismuseum.org.



PLAINFIELD—Agatha Jacobs of Plainfield shows her pastel entitled "Three Flowers" to Union County Freeholder Lewis Mingo Jr., Liaison to the Union County Advisory Council on Aging. Jacobs was awarded with second place in the Senior-Professional Pastel category at the County's Senior Citizen Art Contest and Exhibit at NU/Elizabethown Gas Co.

Guard appoints first black brigade commander

By Sonja Barisic
Associated Press Writer

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — The Virginia Army National Guard, which has come under criticism for having few high-ranking minorities, has appointed a black lieutenant colonel to command a brigade.

Lt. Col. Frank Batts of Hampton is the first black to hold such a post in the guard's 208-year history, a guard spokeswoman said last Tuesday. Batts assumed command of the 54th Field Artillery Brigade, based at Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach, Va. "It is a huge honor," said Batts, 46. He said other officers had recommended him to lead the brigade's 1,000 troops because of his experience and that he did not think his appointment was related to the criticism about the low number of minority officers within the guard.

Mary S. Sunderlin, a guard spokeswoman at Fort Pickett in Blackstone, also said that the criticism had nothing to do with Batts' selection.

"Lt. Col. Batts was selected for the position because he was the most qualified and senior artillery officer in the Virginia Army National Guard," Maj. Gen. Claude A. Williams, adjutant general of the Virginia National Guard, said in a statement.

Batts had been commander of the 1st Battalion, 1114th Field Artillery in Norfolk, which is part of the 54th Brigade. He has been

in the Guard nearly 16 years after serving in the National Guard in West Virginia and Tennessee. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in October 1998. Batts succeeds Col. John Young, who is retiring. A change of command ceremony will be held Oct. 14.

King Salim Khalfani, executive director of the state conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the civil rights organization was happy about Batts' appointment. "But we still need to resolve longstanding complaints" of discrimination within the guard, he said.

The Washington Post reported in January that only 10 percent of Virginia Army National Guard officers are minorities, even though minorities make up nearly a third of the Guard's overall membership.

Gov. Jim Gilmore ordered an investigation, which confirmed that blacks are underrepresented in the Guard's top noncommissioned officer ranks as well as in the ranks of officers in general — particularly the grades of lieutenant colonel and above.

Roy Wilkins to be honored in the Black Heritage stamp series

By Syd Kronish
For AP Special Features

Roy Wilkins, former NAACP executive director and civil rights leader, will be honored in January on the latest stamp in the Black Heritage series issued by the U.S. Postal Service.

Previous honorees in the series include Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King Jr., Jackie Robinson, Mary McLeod Bethune, Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Sr., Malcolm X and Patricia Roberts, the honoree in 2000.

The new stamp features a photo of Wilkins taken in the 1940s by Morgan and Marvin Simon, two brothers who have documented the history of blacks in America.

Born in St. Louis on Aug. 30, 1901, Wilkins graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1923. He joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1931 as assistant executive secretary. From 1955 to 1977 he served as executive secretary and executive director, the latter title making him the NAACP's top man.

Wilkins advocated nonviolent means and the use of the legal system to help achieve racial equality in America. Under his leadership, the NAACP campaigned for many civil rights and voting acts.

Wilkins died on Sept. 8, 1981. The new stamp will be available at local post offices. First-day covers with the first-day cancellations may be ordered from the Stamp Fulfillment Services of the U.S. Postal Service by calling (800) STAMP-24.

Word on the street

Every week City News is on the street to find out what you think.

Gloria Horton
Newark

"I would cut going to the movies with my kids and find other routes of entertainment. I wouldn't cut back on food."

Todd Grady
Newark

"I wouldn't cut back anything. I would pay the bill."



Larcina Frazier
Jersey City

"I would probably cut back on long distance calls. I would also be careful with turning off lights and gas usage."



Lee Johnson
Newark

"I would cut back on clothes shopping and grocery shopping."



James Martinez
Belleville

"I would probably be more frugal about using oil in heating the house. I would cut down on going out to dinner and ordering food in and buying shoes. I would also stop using the home shopping network."

Michael White
Newark

"I wouldn't cut anything, but if I



Verizon will be raising its basic phone rates. If any of your bills or expenses would rise, what would be the first thing you would cut back on?

had to I would cut back entertainment or going to clubs."

Lisa Smith
Tinton Falls

"The first thing I would cut back on is using the phone. I would use my cell phone more for long distance calls."

Gloria Horton
Newark

"I would cut going to the movies with my kids and find other routes of entertainment. I wouldn't cut back on food."

Sherene Blue
Newark

"I would probably cut back on the cable bill."



Stephanie Pierre
Irvington

"I wouldn't make as many phone calls and cut back on long distance calling."



Al Themai
Newark

"I would cut back on services like kid waiting or caller I.D. I would cut back on electric by burning candles and probably catch the bus instead of driving to work. I would live off two hotdogs a day and vegetarian beans. I would cut the cable off."

Luis Matos

"I would put less savings in the bank and use the money to pay bills."

Diane Anthony

I would cut back on using long distance calling and using my credit cards."



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- Do you have an interview scheduled, but don't know what you should wear?

Monday, October 9, 2000	'Job Readiness'	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Monday, October 9, 2000	'Interviewing Skills'	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Monday, October 16, 2000	'Resume Writing'	9:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Monday, October 23, 2000	'Dress for Success'	9:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

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Register Now! Workshops are held at 303 Washington St., 5th Floor, Newark, NJ

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Were you referred by an agency? Yes _____ No _____

If so, which agency? _____

Name of person who referred you _____

Workshop you wish to attend: 1 _____ 2 _____ (Time 9 am. or 1 pm.) 4 _____ (Time 9 am. or 1 pm.)

To register for the workshops, please contact Quinetta Anderson at (973) 624-3000 ext. 290 or fax registration to (973) 242-6728 or send form to 303 Washington St., 5th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102. Deadline for registration is October 2, 2000.

In Collaboration with: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development New Jersey State Office • Workforce New Jersey • New Jersey Department of Community Affairs • Newark Workforce Investment Board • United Way of Essex and West Hudson • Newark Enterprise Resource Development Center • New Community Corporation • Millennium Information Technology Group, Inc. • Council for Airport Opportunity

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Chisholm: New Jersey needs more women in state Senate

TRENTON (AP) — Showing she has lost none of her edge, former U.S. Rep. Shirley Chisholm was no sooner honored by the state Senate with a resolution than she inspired its male members to bring in more women.

The 40-member chamber has three women among its members. "There are stupid women. There are stupid men," she said. "There are brilliant women. There are brilliant men."

"Please gentlemen, be brave, be courageous, and get together and help more women to come into the chamber," she urged. "You ought to be ashamed of yourselves."

Chisholm was the first black woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from New York.

Perkins takes oath of office as Selma's first black mayor

SELMA (AP) — James Perkins took the oath of office Monday as the first black mayor of Selma, promising to unite black and white residents of a city that played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement.

The ceremony made history in a city where demonstrations led to passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the opening of Southern polling booths to blacks.

Perkins, 47, was elected Sept. 12 by defeating the white incumbent who had served since the segregated days of the mid-1960s. Blacks hold a 6-3 majority on the council.

But with blacks now making up at least 65 percent of Selma's electorate, Perkins got about 58 percent of the vote.

Hip-hop at center of federal civil rights lawsuit

SEATTLE (AP) — A civil-rights lawsuit scheduled for trial in U.S. District Court later this month can include a claim that the city of Seattle discriminated against a hip-hop dance club and its African-American patrons, a federal judge has ruled.

U.S. District Judge Robert Lasnik made the ruling in a lawsuit filed by Jerseys All American Sports Bar and its owner, Chris Clifford, against the city.

It enables the plaintiffs to try to prove that city actions against the club in 1992 resulted from a "racially motivated vendetta" and conspiracy among police and elected officials. The case is scheduled for trial Oct. 18.

Concerns about hip-hop were reiterated Sept. 23 by Mayor Paul Schell, who cited the driving, danceable urban music — as a cousin to rap — as a factor in a Pioneer Square shootout that injured five people.

Some contend the term "hip-hop" is code for black.

Thomas may coach Pacers while selling interest in CBA

NEW YORK (AP) — The NBA will allow Isiah Thomas to coach the Indiana Pacers while he attempts to sell his interest in the Continental Basketball Association.

The approval by the league's Board of Governors, the NBA's 29 team owners, was based on assurances from Thomas and the Pacers that Thomas would have no involvement with the CBA.

"Although Isiah's new position as an NBA head coach, while continuing to own a minor league, is a conflict of interest under league rules, we thought it appropriate to grant him a further period to conclude his efforts to sell the league," NBA Deputy Commissioner Russ Granik said.

NBA rules prohibit coaches from having financial interest in another league. A 75 percent majority of the team owners was needed to approve the extension while a transaction is being completed.

Don't miss an issue. Subscribe to City News by calling 973-642-4400.

Reactions to the presidential debate from NJ politicians

The good, the bad, the ugly

By Kelly Foster

The first debate of the presidential election kicked off resoundingly last week, and some of New Jersey's Black politicians had plenty to say after Vice-President Al Gore and Texas Gov. George Bush faced off.

"I think it's very clear that the Vice President Gore had an overwhelming knowledge about the state of America and the world, and he demonstrated that well," said Congressman Donald Payne (D-10).

Payne said Gore addressed a number of issues — such as Social Security, Medicare, abortion — that are important in the Black community.

How the future president chooses Supreme Court Justices is also important, said Payne. "Gore made clear that he would appoint justices with a broad interpretation of the law. Bush wants a strict interpretation, conservative. His justices will be like (Supreme Court Justices) Scalia and Thomas."

"He'll appoint those who will turn back affirmative action and Roe v. Wade," said Sen. Ronald Rice (D-Essex). "When asked if he would reverse Roe v. Wade, he didn't respond."

Rice offered praise for Bush while declaring his support to Gore.

"Bush did well considering he was up against a good debater," said Rice. "He stuttered a little bit, but he tried to stay with his message."

Rice said that overall, Gore had the clearer message on issues such as health care and social security, and education. Gore's experience as vice president put him ahead of Bush.

Rice criticized Bush's proposed 1.3 trillion cut in income taxes plan as being "the same old Republican rhetoric."

"Benefits will go to the wealthy — the upper-middle class," he said. In contrast, he said, Gore's proposed \$500 billion in tax credits for social programs such as college scholarships and day care, supports working-class and middle-class people.

Assemblyman William Payne (D-Essex) praised Gore for his commitment to African issues. "Gore visited Africa and headed an initiative to bring economic development in South Africa. Bush has not expressed an interest in Africa, as far as I know."

Bush's philosophy is too distant for working people, said Payne. "Let's not forget Bush is an oilman. He's a spokesman for the wealthy."



Senator Ronald Rice



Assemblyman William Payne

Min. Farrakhan says discipline up to parents, not state social workers

BLOOMINGTON, ILL. (AP) — Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan says parents, not state social workers, should decide how to discipline their children, even if that decision involves force.

Farrakhan had harsh words for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services during a stop in Bloomington to promote his Oct. 16 Million Family March in Washington. He said the agency needs oversight "so they don't abuse parents."

"If you do not allow me as a father to discipline members of my home using corporal punishment as a last resort, if you do not allow teachers to discipline students in the school — then, on the extreme end, there is a policeman on the corner with a gun on his hip and a stick in his hand," Farrakhan said.

Nation of Islam representatives met with DCFS officials in Bloomington while Farrakhan spoke to reporters and community leaders. DCFS spokeswoman Martha Allen said the agency takes their concerns seriously.

"We are honored that Minister Farrakhan sent representatives to talk about the concerns they have. We fully expect to meet again soon to work out solutions," Allen said.

Although Farrakhan said he wasn't out to condemn DCFS, he questioned why nearly three-quarters of the people under the

agency's authority are minorities. He said the agency does have a place to prevent sexual abuse and excessive violence.

Farrakhan said he learned to respect authority because of his mother's strict discipline.

"She didn't know anything about psychology. She knew about slap-ology, strap-ology and stick-ology. One of those 'ologies' got to me. I learned because I didn't like the whippings," he said.

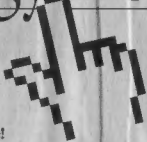
The comments came only months after Farrakhan's son, Louis Farrakhan Jr., was sentenced to 18 months of probation for striking his pregnant wife.

Farrakhan also praised Bloomington Mayor Judy Markowitz for attending his news conference. Markowitz, who is Jewish, said she had been somewhat reluctant to meet with the Nation of Islam leader, who once called Judaism a "gutter religion."

"Your honor, I thank you so much for your words and for the honor of your presence," Farrakhan told Markowitz. "You have made a step other members of the Jewish community have not."

Farrakhan said some of his past remarks have been misconstrued as anti-Semitic. For example, he said when he was quoted as calling Adolf Hitler a "great man," he actually had called him a "wickedly great man."

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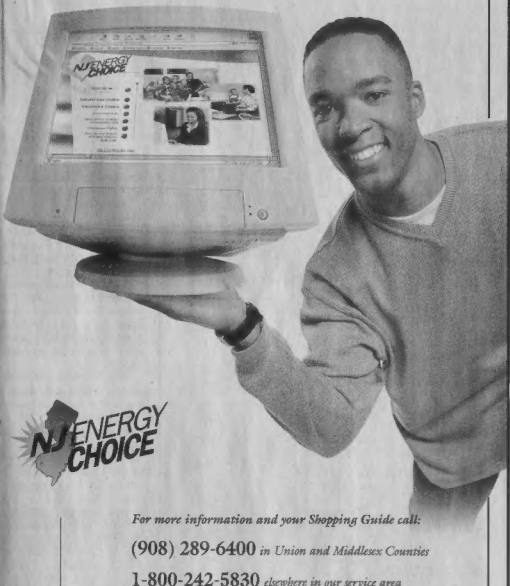
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EDITORIAL

Equal support is necessary

Governor Whitman has removed the restrictions from the YankeeNets to pursue additional support from the City of Newark and Essex County. We applaud the Governor for her decision to move forward from her earlier position. While the arena will not be a panacea for the challenges that face Newark, including the high poverty rate and school underachievement, it will provide a catalyst for significant change in how New Jersey's largest urban center relates to the rest of the State.

But just as the Governor has removed the roadblocks that have slowed Newark's arena development, we must remove the obstacles that continue to hinder public school achievement. While many forces are at work to help the schools turn the corner on underachievement, the efforts are far from meeting the needs of Newark's children. Most, however, truly want to help improve achievement. Now, we look forward to the same collaboration in helping Newark's children prepare to enter a World-Class Workforce — a workforce that will help Newark and New Jersey gain its place as an economic leader.

Is there an issue that you feel strongly about?

City News welcomes your letters. Please submit letters of 450 words or less to: City News Opinion, 111 Mulberry St., Towhousse C, Newark, NJ 07102

When bigotry's victims become bigots

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

In an open letter to California's Black state legislators a group of Los Angeles ministers demanded that they oppose four bills in the state senate and assembly they branded a "homosexual agenda." The bills were nothing of the sort. Three of the bills merely mandated that public schools develop and promote materials that teach tolerance. The fourth bill would create a state human relations commission to promote tolerance among all groups. The fact that the bills mentioned discrimination based on sexual orientation as one of the no-no's instantly raised the hackles of the ministers. The twist is the bill's opponents aren't the hardcore Christian fundamentalists that routinely rant against any legislation that promotes tolerance of gay rights. They were prominent black ministers.

The black legislators to their credit stuck to their guns and publicly vowed to support the bills. The legislators passed three. Yet the puzzle is why blacks who have suffered as much as any group from bigotry and hate mon-

gers could look and sound so much like those same bigotry and hate mongers? There's a warped, if not tragic, reason for their intense fear and loathing of gays. Many blacks, mirrored America's traditional fear and hatred of homosexuality. They swallowed whole the phony and perverse John Wayne definition of manhood, that real men talked and acted tough, shed no tears, and never showed their emotions.

When men broke the prescribed male code of conduct and showed their feelings, they were sneered at as weaklings, and their manhood questioned. While many Americans made blacks their bogeymen, many blacks make gays their bogeymen and wage open warfare against them.

Many blacks also have been deeply influenced by the preachments of countless numbers of black ministers, such as those who utter baseless threats against the black legislators who refused to support or condemn to fire and brimstone any man who engages in what they label the godless and

unnatural act of having a sexual relationship with another man. If they have any doubts about their bigotry, they fall back on the Bible. They can, as generations of bible-toting white preachers still do, flip to the oft-cited line in Leviticus that sternly calls "men lying down with men," the "abomination." Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan has frequently denounced homosexuality as an unnatural act and actively discourages the practice whenever and wherever he can.

Some black rappers, writers, and Afrocentrists have joined in the gender assault. They routinely include negative and offensive lyrics and diatribes savaging gays in their songs and books.

The anti-gay feeling runs so deep among many blacks that there is a virtual taboo on any discussion of the activities of black gays, black gays and lesbians have held a number of National Black Gay Conferences since 1987. Yet there is only the faintest mention of them in the black press. The national gay and lesbian publications are virtually unknown out-

side of the gay and lesbian circles. Some blacks justify the out-of-sight, out-of-mind exclusion of gays from black life by arguing that the gay life style is a major threat to the black family. This hinges on the shaky assumption that there are thousands of gay men lying in wait to subvert traditional family values. But no one really knows how many black men are exclusively gay, and even if it were known much of what passes for traditional family values has long been turned into shambles.

There are all sorts of family commonalities in the 1990s that were barely imaginable a generation ago. There are single working men, single working men, grandparents, single sex male and female couples, step parents, foster parents, designated guardians, foster homes, and even children that are raising children.

The highest destabilizers of the black family are: poverty, unemployment, educational neglect, chronic disease, violence, drugs, alcoholism, and an astronomical incarceration rate for black men. The so-called gay lifestyle is not one of them.

What does it take to really get out the Black Vote on Tuesday November 7, 2000

By Atty. Derrick A. Humphries & Dennis B. Rogers

What does it really take to get African Americans to vote on Tuesday, November 7, 2000? This election will be the most crucial for decades to come!!

The results of these races will set the direction for decisions on who and what kind of people will be appointed to hundreds of federal jobs that will open over the next four years. The results will also provide direction on such crucial issues as redistricting as a result of the 2000 CENSUS, the request for a Presidential order prohibiting racial profiling and access to capital for homeownership and new business start-ups.

Normally black voters turn out at a higher rate in a Presidential election than during other elections. Current voter education efforts already underway include widely known organizations such as the NAACP, the National Urban League, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the National Council of Negro Women and the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation as well as black talk show hosts such as Tom Joyner, Tavis Smiley, Jo Ann Watson and Bev Smith. Storylines, fraternities, educators and students are mobilized. Veteran Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY) and John Conyers (D-MI), the National Council of Negro Women's Dr. Dorothy I. Height, Wings of Justice Super Lawyer Willie Gary, Redeem the Dream's Rev. Walter Fauntroy, the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition's Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, The National Political Congress of Black Women's Dr. C. Delores Tucker, organized labor's Bill Lucy, Black Congress on Health, Law and Economics' Ophelia Long, Congress of National Black Churches' Bishop Roy Winbush, TDJ's James Ministries' Rev. T.D. Jackson, National Newspaper Publishers' Jake Oliver, Rev. Timothy McDowell working with People for the American Way and National Action Network's Rev. Al Sharpton, among others, are working non-stop. There is enough opportunity for everyone,

including you, to get out the vote.

While all these efforts are impressive, if not a little overwhelming, the question remains what does it really take to get out the black vote?

Consider the example that Detroit Mayor Coleman Young provided in 1992 when he closed city government offices on election day. According to the Detroit Election Commission, voter turnout increased from 35 % in 1990 to nearly 60% in 1992.

Consider also the examples found internationally. According to the International Foundation on Election Systems, when voter turnout was evaluated in 14 countries, 13 had higher turnouts than the United States. In 9 of those 13 countries, elections were held on Saturday or Sunday, when people were not working, and on average 81.5% of the voters turned out and voted. In alphabetical order, those countries were: an Argentina vote on Sunday, 80 percent turnout; a Belgium vote on Sunday, 91 percent turnout; a Brazil vote on a weekday, 82 percent turnout; a Canada vote on a Monday, 69 percent turnout; a France vote on Sunday, 81 percent turnout; a Germany vote on Sunday, 78 percent turnout; an Italy vote on Sunday, 87 percent turnout; a Japan vote on Sunday, 67 percent turnout; a Mexico vote on a Sunday, 77 percent turnout; a Russia vote on Sunday, 68 percent turnout; a South Africa vote held Tuesday through Friday in 1994 which drew 87 percent turnout; a Sweden vote on Sunday, 88 percent turnout; a United Kingdom vote on Thursday, 77 percent turnout; and the United States vote on Tuesday which drew on 53 percent turnout.

Are the people in these countries more conscientious citizens than Americans?

No, not hardly. But what they do have is the opportunity, in most cases, to vote on a day when they don't work. And as Detroit Mayor Coleman Young demonstrated, that is a critical factor in producing a big voter turnout.

When he closed local government offices and encouraged workers city wide to go to the polls on

election day, the result was the largest turnout of voters in the twentieth history of Detroit.

But commitment by national leadership also counts when it comes to increasing black voter turnout. It is noteworthy that the 1.7 million black

Tuesday, Nov. 7, let's ring the church bell at high noon for 5 minutes, pray for our nation and go to vote. Then, every hour on the hour for 5 minutes, let's ring the church bell to remind others to vote.

male voter increase in 1996 was a direct result of the 1995 Million Man March led by Minister Louis Farrakhan. The Million Family March will be in Washington, DC on October 16, 2000, just 22 days before election day.

The effect of the leadership of Minister Louis Farrakhan and other political and spiritual leaders will surely be profound again in this November's election.

The combination of free time to vote along with the impact of inspired spiritual leadership can make a difference nationwide in increasing black voter turnout.

As demonstrated during the civil rights movement, churches are the centers of assembly and can increase voter education and voter activism. Open your churches!

As demonstrated by Mayor Young, it makes a dramatic difference when people are free to vote. Close your offices!

As demonstrated in our lives every day, prayer makes a difference. We cannot afford to go to sleep when the community is in dire need. Or as Ralph Ellison said, "There are only a few things in the world as dangerous as sleepwalkers." Pray for the Nation!

We must organize to help our brothers and sisters get to the polls. And what better way to bring that

effort together throughout the day than through our churches. Take All Souls to the Polls!

Therefore, African Americans and African American leaders are urged to: Open our Churches! Close our offices! Ring the bells! Pray for the Nation! Let's get all Souls to the Polls! Football and other coaches say that you will play on game day like you practice during the week. Let us take a look at how we as a community practice getting out the vote. On Sunday morning a variety of people have keys to open the church. The Pastor, deacons, mothers of the church, the ushers, members of the Board of Trustees or the janitor can unlock the door.

On Sunday mornings the church bell rings to remind us that it is time to worship. On Sunday morning, our churches are open and full as many candidates come to Black Churches, across the nation, seeking support and the Black vote.

But on past election days, our churches have been closed. Why not conduct service and pray for the nation on election day? Here is an idea:

Tuesday, Nov. 7, let's ring the church bell at high noon for 5 minutes, pray for our nation and go to vote. Then, every hour on the hour for 5 minutes, let's ring the church bell to remind others to vote.

If our Churches do not have a bell, let's go purchase one at a Black-owned business or a local hardware store.

If it is too much to open each Church, let's identify one Church where we can congregate. Let's pray as a community, let's ring our Church bells, and then let's go to the polls as a community.

So as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. urged us in 1963, "Let Freedom Ring!" It seems to be an open and shut case. What does it really take to get out the Black vote on Tuesday, November 7? Open our Churches! Close our offices! Ring the bells! Pray for the Nation! Let's get all Souls to the Polls!

Derrick A. Humphries is a lawyer at Humphries & Brooks, LLC. Dennis B. Rogers serves as the President of the National African American Student Association, Inc. and attends Howard University.



By Julian Bond
National NAACP Board Chairman

Black Power! The 60s slogan has been converted into today's substance. What was then for some a dream and for others a threat is now a reality — at the ballot box.

The last time a Texan was nominated for president, Black people in the South were routinely excluded from voting, victims of an age-old system of legally sanctioned white supremacy.

Within months of being elected, that successful candidate, President Lyndon Baines Johnson, signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 into law. It is generally regarded as the most effective civil rights legislation ever passed.

It is the reason why Black voters may be critical in deciding which son of the South will occupy the White House in 2001 — George W. Bush of Texas or Al Gore of Tennessee.

In the 1988 midterm election, the Black share of votes cast was 10 percent. Yet, Black voters were decisive in eight states — Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama and Ohio.

Together, these states account for 115 electoral votes. Two hundred and seventy are needed to win. Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio, which have 61 of those votes by themselves, are widely seen as key swing states in this year's presidential race.

Why were Black voters able to have such impact in those eight states in 1988? Because the Black vote was strategically effective, and it increasingly is in response to organized and systematic efforts.

The Black share of the vote in three of those states exceeded the states' Black voting age populations. Dramatic increases in the Black turnout took place in six of the states because activists worked to make it happen — registering the unregistered and then taking on the task of contacting them, urging them to vote on election day.

In Georgia, for example, where Blacks held 19 percent of the votes in 1994, they accounted for 29 percent of the votes in 1998.

We need to do even better in Election 2000. That is why the NAACP chose "Race to Vote" as our convention theme this year.

We have vowed to recruit ourselves to our most important task — registering voters, educating voters, and making sure those voters go to the polls.

We know it makes a difference in each of our households who holds the White House, the U. S. House, and the statehouses — and every other elected office.

And we know that we can make a difference in determining the outcome of races large and small.

Issues of huge importance to Black Americans are at stake in the presidential race: Social Security, health care, education, tax and spending policies, and future Supreme

Court appointments that could undo civil rights protections for which we have fought and died.

Election 2000 will also determine who controls the United States Congress, whose current leadership is more hostile to civil rights than at any time in recent memory.

Will the next Congress support and defend justice and equality, or will they undermine the important protections we won at great costs, barely 30 years ago?

There are also crucial contests at the state and local levels. State legislatures will draw the district lines that will determine the extent of Black participation in state and fed-

eral politics for the next ten years.

Black people as a group rely more on what government, at every level, does or does not do than most other groups in the country.

We are disproportionately at the mercy of government — as its beneficiaries and as its victims.

That is why we sacrificed lives and livelihoods to force our way into the political process.

Now the challenge is to knock on every door, register every voter, educate every voter, turn out every voter, and make sure we count on Election Day.

Black power lives today at the ballot box. Race to vote!

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A JOB WELL DONE

Journalist, commentator, Carl Rowan dies at age 75

By Genaro C. Armas
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Carl Thomas Rowan, a well-known commentator — once called America's "most visible black journalist" — for his eloquent columns exploring race relations and championing civil rights is dead at age 75.

The Tennessee native died of natural causes at a Washington hospital, said his son, Carl Rowan Jr. His father had suffered from a variety of illnesses in recent years, including diabetes and heart problems.

"Even though he was feeling sick, he said he had to go in and do the column," Rowan Jr., a lawyer, said about his father's final column two weeks ago.

"Carl provided one of journalism's most distinctive voices," said Jonathan Weisman, executive editor of The Associated Press, who knew the columnist for many years in Washington. "He was a pioneering reporter who crossed into government and then into commentary, always speaking his mind, usually poking away at the status quo."

Added Allen H. Neuharth, founder of USA Today and the Freedom Forum, a nonpartisan foundation that advocates speech and press freedom: "Carl Rowan was a poor, black country kid from Tennessee, who said 'no' to the status quo there, across the USA, and around the world."

Rowan was a Freedom Forum trustee.

Rowan's career spanned more than half a century. Besides his columns, he was a frequent guest on public affairs radio and television programs and served in the administrations of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

"First I see myself simply as a newspaper man and commentator," Rowan told one interviewer. "I inform people and expose them to a point of view they wouldn't get. I work against the racial mind-set of most of the media."

Rowan, a dying coal mining town, Tennessee, in his autobiography told of growing up with "no electricity, no running water, no toothbrushes... no telephone, no radio and no regular inflow of money."

Still, he excelled in school and graduated in 1947 from Oberlin College in Ohio. He entered journalism after a stint as one of the Navy's first black commissioned officers. He worked as a copy editor at the Minneapolis Tribune.

In a Washington Post profile, Rowan was called "the most visible black journalist in the country."

His reporting on race relations led Kennedy to appoint him a deputy assistant secretary of state. Before returning to journalism, he also served as ambassador to Finland in the Kennedy administration, and as director of the U.S. Information Agency under Johnson.

He was for black journalists among the very pioneers in the business," said Washington Post columnist William Raspberry.

David Gergen, editor at large of U.S. News & World Report magazine and like Rowan a frequent television commentator, called Rowan "a breakthrough American. He not only broke barriers as a public servant but did the same thing in journalism... He had a bite to his journalism that attracted people far beyond the black community."

"Carl Rowan was known primarily as a perceptive newspaper columnist, but he was also great generalist," said syndicated columnist and TV commentator Jack Germond. "He was a frustrated song and dance man whose company we all enjoyed."

He displayed his sense of humor a year ago during the Gridiron Club's annual dinner, where journalists lampoon the president and politicians. Rowan donned a black wig to drag out a portrayal of Linda Tripp, the Pentagon employee who secretly recorded conversations with former White House icon Monica Lewinsky.

"You could always count on him doing something outrageous. He's worn his share of dresses," Raspberry joked.

Despite the high profile in the nation's capital and accolades during his distinguished career, Rowan never lost his humble childhood, his son said. After reading about a local high school where black students were embarrassed to stand as their names were called for an honor roll ceremony, Rowan created a project designed to help and encourage black youth to finish school and go on to college.

Rowan, who advocated strict handgun control, was arrested and charged in 1988 with using an unregistered weapon to wound a teen-ager who intruded into his backyard. He argued that he had the right to use whatever means necessary to protect himself and his family. A mistrial was declared after the jury deadlocked.

Rowan also is survived by his wife of 50 years, Vivien; son Jeffrey, a clinical psychologist; daughter, Barbara, a former journalist; and four grandchildren.

Ten time Grammy winner Shirley Caesar releases 'You Can Make It'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Ten-time Grammy Award winning artist Pastor Shirley Caesar has released her 35th album, titled "You Can Make It," on Myrrh Records Black Music Division. "You Can Make It" is the 16th title Caesar has recorded for Word Entertainment in her 20-year career with the company.

"You Can Make It" features Grammy and Dove Award winning producer Bubba Smith, Caesar's longtime friend and band member Michael Mathis, and Caesar herself. Several guest artists make notable contributions to the project, including Bobby Jones and his Grammy nominated Nashville Super Choir, who appear on four tracks, and Caesar's own Mt. Calvary "Word of Faith" Choir out of Raleigh, North Carolina. Bringing a contemporary edge to the song "Rejoice" is multiple Dove and Stellar nominee — and Caesar's label mate — New Direction.

The current album offers a more contemporary flavor than

past Caesar albums, while retaining the traditional foundation that has brought Caesar such an enduring fan base. "Rejoice," the opening cut and first single from the project, is already making a strong impact on gospel radio, and is generating excitement with its fresh sound from the long respected Gospel Music Hall of Fame inductee, combined with the youth and energy of New Direction. The project also includes the inspiring title cut "Armor of God," and the soulful "Under the Blood."

"With 10 Grammy Awards and over 30 albums already to her credit, Pastor Shirley Caesar isn't slowing down one bit," said Jim Chaffee, vice president and general manager of Myrrh Records. "Even though she's respected as a legend in gospel music, she's still making exceptional music and growing as an artist and communicator of the truth. We are honored to be a part of Pastor Caesar's award-winning tradition."



Shirley Caesar

New Direction releases stellar sophomore album

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Multiple Stellar and Dove Award nominee New Direction returned Oct. 3 with its anticipated sophomore release, "Get Your Praise On," releasing on the Myrrh Records Black Music Division. The follow-up to New Direction's highly acclaimed high-energy self-titled debut, "Get Your Praise On" continues the Chicago-based youth choir's trademark exuberance and distinct blend of urban, hip-hop and rap elements.

Under the direction of returning producers Jeral Gray, Percy Gray, and Tom Brundley (known for his work with Boyz II Men, Macy J. Bilge and others), the 50-voice singing choir



delivers energetic cuts that build on the choir's characteristic, youth-oriented sound that won the industry's attention last year. Standout songs on the project include the title cut,

"Victory," "I Came To Jesus," "New Revelation" and "Hold Out."

"We're excited to see this outstanding choir deliver on the promise of its groundbreaking debut," says Jim Chaffee, vice president and general manager for Myrrh Records. "Get Your Praise On" should please fans of New Direction's first album, as well as significantly expanding their audience within the Gospel community," Chaffee added.

"We hope that with this album, New Direction will continue to grow on a national level," says choir director and primary songwriter for New Direction, Jeral Gray, "so that we can reach young people nationwide to encourage them that their lives can be turned around. This is 'old school' music with a 'new school' flavor, and we hope that our words can inspire youth to get off the streets and get involved in the church."

The World to debut with gospel album produced by Tony Rich

NASHVILLE — Detroit-based brother duo The World released its debut, "How U Gonna Live," for the Myrrh Records Black Music Division/Epic Records on Oct. 3. Produced by Grammy Award-winning producer and artist Tony Rich. The album is the first release under a new production agreement between Rich and the label.

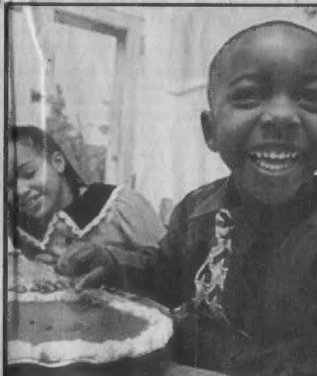
The World consists of brothers Chris and Stan Jones, who originally met and sang with Rich in high school. The three friends reunite on "How U Gonna Live," which features much of Rich's signature, smooth R&B style and the Jones' powerful vocals.

In addition to production credits, Rich contributed as songwriter on all of the album's cuts, and also appears as a co-leading vocalist on several songs.

Funky rhythms and groove pervade the songs of "How U Gonna Live," from the opening line of the album, spoken by Rich: "This music is... unlike any other Gospel music you've heard..." The group seeks to deliver on that promise from the rhythmic opening cut, "It's All Good," to the urban groove of "This Is a Party." The album cools down to smooth pop harmonies on the first radio single from the project, "Better Day," the reflective "They Know Not," and the album's worshipful closing cut, "Oh Lord (We Give You Praise)."

Rich signed an agreement with the Myrrh Records Black Music Division earlier this year to develop and produce three projects a year for the label, contributing not only as producer, but also as songwriter and A&R manager for the projects. "How U Gonna Live" is the first project Rich has produced for the label under the terms of the agreement.

"The World represents the first in what we hope to be a strong line of new artists that the Myrrh Black Music Division will present to the public," said Jim Chaffee, vice president and general manager for Myrrh Records.



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Religious Calendar

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

EAST ORANGE — New Hope Baptist Church presents its Annual Conference and Women's Day, "A New Beginning," through Oct. 15 at 144 Norman Street. Four dynamic women are scheduled to speak including: Evangelist Lorraine Stansbury, Pastor Theresa Nance who is chief chaplain of the Passaic County Jail; Reverend Sheila A. Riley of the Melchior Assembly of God and Evangelist Jennifer Jones-Peoples of Rockville, Maryland. For more information, call (973) 678-6710.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

NEWARK — "Be Careful What You Pray For," a gospel play, will be performed at the Sarah Vaughn Concert Hall at 8pm. For more information, call (973) 643-8013.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

NEWARK — "Sisters in the Spirit" featuring Yolanda Adams, Shirley Caesar and Mary Mary will perform at the Sarah Vaughn Concert Hall at 8pm. For more information call 973-643-8013.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

NEWARK — "Woman, Thou Art Loosed," a gospel play, will be performed at the Sarah Vaughn Concert Hall at 8pm. For more information call 973-643-8013.

Gene McKinney, former Black Panther member, dies at 58

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Gene McKinney, a leading fundraiser for the Black Panther Party in the 1960s, died at his home in Oakland, he was 58.

McKinney was working on his memoirs when he died in bed on Sept. 13, according to his daughter Troya McKinney-Rannells. McKinney suffered from high blood pressure though the cause of death had not yet been determined.

McKinney met Black Panther Party leader Huey Newton in 1967 at a fund-raiser for fellow Panther Bobby Seale's legal defense. Seale had been jailed for an armed demonstration at the capitol in Sacramento.

After the fund-raiser, McKinney was with Newton when police stopped them and gunfire broke out. When it was over, Newton lay wounded and a policeman died from gunshot wounds. McKinney took Newton to the hospital where the Black Panther's co-founder recovered.

Newton escaped prosecution for the officer's death in part because McKinney refused to testify about the evening's events at trial.

Former party chief of staff David Hilliard called McKinney instrumental in keeping Newton alive for the night he was shot.

"Our Panther leaders, the insiders, saw this guy as being a hero," Hilliard told the San Francisco Chronicle.

Franks, Corzine differ on federal government's role in public

By Kathleen Cannon
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — In some ways, U.S. Senate candidates Jon Corzine and Bob Franks agree on what and how children should be taught.

Democrat Corzine and Republican Franks part company, however, over the federal government's role in public education.

Both Corzine, the millionaire Wall Street retiree, and Franks, the Union County congressman, support "character" education to promote values in children and after-school programs to provide them with a safe haven, for example.

After that, differences emerge. Corzine has also made college scholarships a key feature of a campaign platform driven by television advertising, although he recently tempered his promises somewhat with caveats to control runaway costs. Some took it as a signal he may shift away from the universal promises offered during the primary to a more measured set of proposals for the general election.

As for the public schools, both candidates have laid out a variety of proposals on what politics suggests is a hot-button issue.

Franks believes the federal government ought to hand over more control to local school districts and parents.

Conversely, Corzine proposes that the federal government increase its involvement by targeting increased funding to solve specific flaws in public education.

Corzine "is not only committed to ensuring that the federal government play a bigger role, but will target the funds to the public education system's biggest needs," said campaign spokeswoman Ivette Mendez.

In New Jersey, the federal government contributed 37 percent of education costs in 1998-99, but school year, the last year for which statistics are available, according to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Among Corzine's various calls for more federal investment is a \$50 billion program over 10 years to ensure that preschool programs are accredited, meet health and safety standards, and supply well-trained and compensated staff.

Overall, Corzine wants to see federal education aid increase to enable local districts to hire and train more certified teachers, reduce class sizes, enhance school safety and stem substance abuse, Mendez said.

The Democrat supports interest-free school construction bonds with tax credits to help state and local governments modernize, repair and build public schools, Mendez said.

Unlike Corzine, Franks wants to decentralize the federal government's hold on public education.

"Bob Franks believes parents, teachers and administrators know what's best for our children. They should be the ones empowered to make decisions regarding our children's education, not a Washington bureaucracy," said campaign spokeswoman Peter DeMarco.

Franks supports federal block grants to give local officials the flexibility to meet local needs. In return, the districts would have to meet higher education accountability standards, DeMarco said.

Franks' decentralized approach irks the Corzine campaign, which says there aren't enough accountability strings attached to Franks' favored form of aid.

Corzine also wants Franks to take for voting in 1995 to discontinue the federal Department of Education, but Franks' campaign said the resolution was merely advisory and never implemented.

"What they cited was not binding language," said DeMarco. "It only called on appropriators to consider eliminating the Department of Education." DeMarco noted the provision was a small part of a 300-page report.

"The goal of the report was to reduce the financial commitment to education, but to have more federal money find its way to classrooms," he said.

Franks also voted for a bill that would allow states to discontinue federal funds to parents who need help paying private school tuition. Corzine opposes vouchers for private school costs.

Report shows complaints against cops on rise

By Lori Hinnant
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Complaints against police officers in towns throughout New Jersey have increased steadily since 1995, according to a study by a law enforcement ethics group, which blamed the increase on a lack of accountability for police agencies.

Rich Rivera, the New Jersey coordinator for the National Institute of Ethics, released the report last Sunday at the conclusion of the New Jersey Black Issues Leadership Convention in Newark.

Rivera, a former West New York police officer, said he compiled the information by requesting internal affairs reports from county prosecutors, police departments and the state Department of Justice.

The report, titled "New Jersey Police Complaint Review Project 2000," indicates that the number of complaints against police in New Jersey are twice the national



Rev. Reginald Jackson
File Photo

average. Rivera said he found that officers are the ones punished, but not the only ones at fault.

"Police officers are being held accountable for their actions, which is good, but the police agencies aren't being held accountable," he said. "I don't think officers are becoming worse. I think they're being asked to do more with less tools and education and training."

According to the report, the

sharpest rise in complaints came between 1995 — when there were 6,208 — to 1996, when that number rose to 8,823 statewide. The most recent number available in the report was the 1998 statewide total of 9,939.

The report said from 1995 to 1998 Essex County led the state in excessive force complaints, followed by Hudson and Passaic counties. During that same time, Essex also led in arrest complaints, followed by Monmouth and Hudson counties.

Rivera said he began the study after a corruption investigation began while he was working at the West New York department.

Prosecutors say police took hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes and kickbacks from 1989 to 1997 to shield prostitutes, illicit liquor sales and illegal gambling operations in the mile-square town of 50,000 just across the Hudson River from New York City.

At least 29 people, including the former police chief, have pleaded guilty or been convicted

The Ministers Council has always said that the problems with law enforcement are much worse at the local level than at the state level. One of the things that we have called for is that there be uniformity in terms of standard operating procedures and in terms of reporting.

Rev. Reginald Jackson
Dir. of New Jersey Black Ministers Council

of offenses related to corruption in the 140-officer police department.

But Rivera said most complaints are more easily investigated — and more easily prevented — than the one that sparked his study. He said the only problem is the monitoring system.

The report suggests that the state attorney general's office and county prosecutors take an active role investigating internal investigation policies.

Telephone calls placed to representatives of the state attorney general's office were not returned. The Rev. Reginald Jackson, director of the influential New Jersey Black Ministers Council, said the report's findings don't surprise him.

"The Ministers Council has always said that the problems with law enforcement are much worse at the local level than at the state level," he said. "One of the things that we have called for is that there be uniformity in terms of standard operating procedures and in terms of reporting."

But Jackson cautioned against asking for supervision from the attorney general's office.

"Ideally that would be the place for all of this to occur," he said. "I think the difficulties we're facing now are difficulties within the attorney general's office."

New Jersey nearing halfway point on drive to eliminate traffic

By Jeff Linkous
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Thirty gone, and down the road 37 more to go. For anyone keeping score, that's the tally for eliminating New Jersey's traffic circles, once models of traffic-flow efficiency, but now mostly menaces to motorists.

Over the next five years, 30 to 36 more circles will be replaced with some remedy, said John Douragarian, a spokesman for the state Department of Transportation. Usually the circle is turned into an intersection with traffic signals or — more expensively — overpasses.

According to state records, those targeted include the Flemington Circle, the Berlin Circle at routes 30 and Haddonfield-Berlin Road, the Collingswood Circle at routes 130 and 73, where a redesign will replace the cut-through done years ago at the Somerset Point Circle at Route 52; and the Victory Circle on Route 35 in Woodbridge.

The costs for eliminating them will vary based on how much property needs to be acquired and how much utility work is needed. Douragarian said. The range is \$5 million to \$12 million, but \$30 million is projected for the Berlin Circle because of the amount of land that must be acquired.

"In the last 25 years, we've eliminated 30 circles, with 37 left. We will continue to eliminate them," Douragarian said. "Not all will be eliminated. Some in the Pinelands will possibly remain."

New Jersey's highway landscape has been dotted with circles since the mid-1920s, most of them designed by Harold Giffen, an engineer with the state Highway Department, the DOT's forerunner.

The traffic-control approach was borrowed from Columbus Circle in New York. The first New Jersey circle was the Airport Circle in Pennsauken Township in 1925 at routes 30 and 130.

"Our transportation system at the time was busy," Douragarian said. "The best way to keep things moving in places where several roads merged was circles. At the time and many years after, they worked very well."

They don't now. New Jersey's transportation is still busy. Make that busier.

Decades ago, a busy road was 20,000 vehicles a day, and circles

were designed to handle up to 30,000 vehicles a day.

A busy road these days, Douragarian said, is 100,000 vehicles. That's roughly four times the available parking spaces at Giants Stadium and Continental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford.

"You can see why they've become obsolete," Douragarian said.

And dangerous. "We found more accidents at circles than at signaled intersections and overpasses," Douragarian said.

John Douragarian
Spokesman for the State Department of Transportation

For example, there's the

Lodgewood Circle at routes 10 and 46 in Roxbury Township, Morris County. "That circle averaged 100 accidents a year mostly fender-benders," he said.

It's history now. In 1998, the DOT cut a road through it, reducing the average number of accidents to about 10 a year, Douragarian said.

"Circles are high-speed, uncontrolled merge points," he said. "When it gets busy, there's less room for error."

That may account for the likelihood that where there's a busy circle, there's a X-rated language on the part of drivers. Who has the right of way is not uniform.

"It's based on traffic flow," Douragarian said. Aside from common sense and caution, he said, often the circles' historically established traffic flow dictates who has the right of way.

That means drivers in a circle must yield to entering traffic if the entering traffic represents the main flow, and vice versa.

That's why New Jersey's circles fail, said Tom Hicks, director of the Office of Traffic and Safety with the Maryland State Highway Administration.

Maryland, which began using circles in 1992, calls them "roundabouts," said Hicks, who worked around in the New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles from 1959 to 1962.

The roundabouts are used in lieu of signals and effectively slow traffic at convergence points without causing accidents, he said. The state has 16 circles now with another 16 on the drawing board, he said, and the accident rate has been cut by 75 percent.

"The entering traffic does the yielding. That's essential," Hicks said. "You've got to break the speed of the arterial traffic."

Census count may cause problems for New Jersey

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — The U.S. Census Bureau's efforts to make the 2000 count more accurate may cause problems for New Jersey, including a possible delay in next year's primary election and redistricting complications.

The census bureau is taking raw numbers and statistically adjusting them so it doesn't undercount like it did 10 years ago.

But that may mean detailed census figures won't be delivered to the state until March, leaving just a month for a state commission to redraw legislative districts. That task must be completed by April 12, the filing deadline for Republicans and Democrats to

declare themselves candidates for the June 5 primary.

"There's no way we can do that," Senate Minority Leader Richard Codey told The Star-Ledger of Newark.

States redraw legislative and congressional districts to reflect shifting population every 10 years after a census. That process may be rushed in New Jersey because the state holds legislative elections in 2001. The governor's job and all 120 legislative seats are up for next year's election.

That in turn, legislative leaders say, may prompt lawmakers to push back next year's primary by a few weeks or possibly a few months — or even hold two primaries for governor and the state Legislature.

"We're getting very frightening signals about when they can get the numbers," said Peter McDonough, a spokesman for Gov. Christopher Whitman. "It could really foul up our process if we don't get

accurate numbers quickly."

A commission of five Democrats and five Republicans redraws districts once census numbers are in. The process can be contentious because redistricting can determine a party's majority for a decade of elections. The commission has 30 days to draw up new districts.

A deadlock could prompt state Supreme Court Chief Justice Deborah Porita to appoint an 11th, independent member to spend another 30 days to complete a redistricting map.

In that scenario, redistricting would not be complete until May, which is too late for candidates to file. In 1991, the commission finished its work at the end of March after receiving census numbers in January.

State officials said they are pressuring the Census Bureau to release New Jersey's numbers in March. State population totals are released in Dec. 31, but the bureau does not have to release detailed data until April 1.

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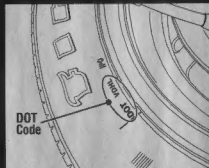
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To determine if your 15" Wilderness ATs are affected, find the U.S. DOT Safety Standard Code. (Simply look under your vehicle with a flashlight. There is no need to raise the vehicle.) If the code reads DOT VDHL on any or all of your tires, they should be replaced.



The DOT code is located on the inner sidewall. Inspect tire DOT code with vehicle on ground.

1. TIRE PRESSURE UPDATE.

For ten years, the recommended tire pressure for 15" tires on Explorer vehicles has been 26 psi, endorsed by both Firestone and Goodyear.

Although the Goodyear tires and non-recalled Firestone tires continue to perform at world-class safety levels at 26 psi, Firestone is now recommending that their P235/75R15 tires be inflated to 30 psi, which is within the 26-30 psi range approved by Ford.

In order to avoid any confusion, we are advising Explorer (plus Mercury Mountaineer and Mazda Navajo) owners with Firestone P235/75R15 tires to follow Firestone's recommendation and set their tire pressure at 30 psi.

2. ALL AFFECTED TIRES CAN BE REPLACED BY END OF NOVEMBER.

To date, over 3.6 million tires (55% of recalled tires) have already been replaced. We continue to increase tire production from other manufacturers, including Goodyear and Michelin, and are now receiving thousands of tires from these sources to ensure your affected tires can be replaced by the end of November. (To find the most current list of certified replacement tires, see the Firestone Recall Information Center at www.ford.com.)

3. HOW TO REPLACE YOUR TIRES.

First, check the box on the left to see if your tires are affected. If your tires are part of the Firestone recall, make an appointment with an authorized Ford, Mercury or Mazda dealer, or see an authorized Firestone retailer.

To find the outlet nearest you, go to www.ford.com, click on the Firestone Information Box and select your preferred outlet under "Locate An Authorized Replacement Center".

If you are unable to find certified tires at any of the authorized replacement outlets, you may be able to find certified replacement tires at another tire retailer. If so, have your recalled Firestone tires replaced and bring them to your Ford, Mercury, Mazda dealer or the nearest Firestone retailer and they will provide you with a claim form to speed your reimbursement from Firestone.

4. IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION.

Contact the Firestone Information Recall Center at www.ford.com. If you have any further questions or concerns, call us at (800) 660-4719, or e-mail us at tireinquiry@ford.com.

Nonprofit

Continued from A-1

example, why the Hahnes building remained vacant for so long. I think what's now making people look at Newark is that other areas are getting developed, the waterfront in Jersey City, for example. People seek out where there are opportunities. And now, we're at the point where opportunities in other places have been absorbed.

Q It seems like minorities don't know about development deals like this until they're done. How can you get minorities involved from the beginning?

A: In terms of development, the challenge is finding minority businesses that can deal with a project that size.

Contracting is better for minorities. Many minority businesses are available for construction. We intend to set enforceable goals for minority workers and we intend to meet these goals.

Housing Authority

continued from A-1

she lives in and rents out. At first, she knew nothing about homebuying, she said.

"I kept asking the realtor, what do I do now?" she said, laughing. Widener credits the program with helping her navigate the contracts and negotiating she had to deal with to buy her first home. They also helped her find day care for her children.

"I needed about \$1500 in court fees and they gave me some money for that," she said.

From tenants' rents and savings, Widener bought a second home in Irvington which she also rents out. She said the owners paid the closing costs, which was included in the mortgage.

Widener is thankful to the program for helping her accomplish her goals and helping her set an example for her children.

Uniquely Newark

continued from A-1

the fifth or sixth project to be demolished." About 100 new units have been built so far, he added.

"I call these homes row houses," said Cummings. "They are modest, attractive, low-rise, low-income houses."

Another contrast is the condition of the public schools Stadium on Roseville Ave., in the Roseville section of the city.

The stadium, which takes up a whole block, is dilapidated; with pieces of concrete broken or missing.

"The council has been trying to get the stadium fixed up for about eight years," said Carrino. The city's high schools play football at the stadium, but not many people attend these games — and the stands have been condemned for about four or five years, according to Carrino.

He said the school board, which owns the stadium, told the council no funds were available for the stadium and that money for new schools and additions to existing schools took precedence.

Prior to the condemnation, about 13 thousand people used to attend the games, "now its about five or six hundred," said Carrino.

In general, North ward residents



A young resident in the new Archbishop Walsh townhomes Photo by Kathy Foster

seemed content with their neighborhood.

"I love living here, said North Ward resident Liz Del Tufo. "I love living here; I adore Branch Brook Park. We have every

nationality. It's not fun when everyone looks alike."

Ralph Schomer said he liked the homes and the quiet nature of his Forest Hills home, but complained that the area was becoming too crowded.

ing too crowded.

"Developers are squeezing two and three family homes on very small lots," he said. "That leads to overcrowded streets, and no room to park your car."

Saint James Hospital Medical staff offers scholarships

The Medical Staff at Saint James Hospital in the Ironbound Section of Newark is offering four scholarships for college students. First-year college students will be eligible to apply for the scholarships. Each award will be for \$2,000. Two of the scholarships will be available to Newark residents and will be earmarked for students who plan a career in the health care field. Two will be awarded to employees of Saint James Hospital or their children and these two scholarships will not be restricted to students in the field of health care. The employees

must have worked at Saint James for at least one year.

Dr. Donato Colavita, a surgeon with a practice in the Ironbound, is chairman of the Saint James Hospital Medical Staff Funds Committee and treasurer of the Medical Staff. He says, "My colleagues and I are pleased to be able to provide scholarships to deserving students who plan careers in the field of health care. We hope to encourage and assist local residents to achieve their educational goals. This year, we also will offer scholarship assistance to

two employees or their children. These scholarships will not be restricted to the health care field but will be offered to deserving scholars to help them pursue careers of their choice."

Applicants must submit a transcript, a letter of personal interest that includes activities at school and career goals, a statement of financial need, and must achieve a grade point average of at least 3.0 in their first year of college. Two letters of recommendation also are required, one from a teacher or professor and one from a member of the community.

Applications must be received by October 30 and will be reviewed by a selection committee. Final selection will be made by December and disbursement of funds will be made in January.

Selection will be limited to the first 100 scholarship applications received. Students interested in applying for the Saint James Hospital Medical Staff Scholarships may send their applications to the Medical Staff Office, 155 Jefferson Street, Newark, NJ 07105, (Attention Scholarship Committee).

A Mile in her shoes

By Nidara Rourke

It was by chance that I got the opportunity to speak with Kim Denmark. She made a pit stop at a voter registration drive in Newark in September.

This woman wearing a bright orange sweat-suit with a cardboard sign around her neck seemed to be a story waiting to happen. I finally got a chance to speak to her, and found out that Denmark is much more than a story. She is one of the few people in our era that has received an assignment — a calling — from her people and from her God, and is willing to accept it.

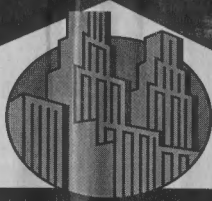
On January 5, 1999, in four feet of snow, Denmark began to walk from Ohio to New York. She never knew where her next meal was coming from or where she would rest her blistered feet at night.

Denmark's destination is the United Nations. She wants to address these officials on the plight of women, minorities, the poor, and the homeless. "I think this is a spiritual message for the nation. I want New York to support my bill for long training for welfare moms." She said.

Denmark, dissatisfied with the government's welfare reform system, created a temporary agency where welfare recipients could find employment. She not only found jobs for over 300 women in the healthcare field, and provided transportation for them. She bought two vans and had non-violent offenders transport these women to and from work.

I asked what she would be doing after she reached the UN. She said she would turn in her walking shoes, take a rest, and prepare for the next proverbial step towards bettering the lives of minorities in America.

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— Paul Robeson

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What's cookin' in Newark

By Kelly Foster

Local restaurant organization stirs up power

Working together is the most important step...We can share information with each other and support each other. We want to make Newark a destination point.

Stephanie Voulgaris

Downtown Newark Restaurant and Hospitality Association



Palate Pleasure owners and husband-wife team Michael James and Amella Rocio pose inside their restaurant. James hopes that the Downtown Newark Restaurant and Hospitality Association will attract more business to Newark.

Photos by Kelly Foster

Forming business alliances can sometimes mean the difference between success and failure of a company. That's why Stephanie Voulgaris co-owner of Maize and The Hunt Room restaurants, developed the idea for the Downtown Newark Restaurant and Hospitality Association, to promote restaurants and other service establishments in the downtown area.

The new association, which started in late July, has about 19 members and was formed in order for the service industry in the area to unite and collectively advertise and share information with each other, with the goal of bringing more patrons to Newark's eateries.

"Working together is the most important step," said Voulgaris. "We can share information with each other and support each other. We want to make Newark a destination point," she said.

"We reached out to the center of the city and immediate areas of Newark," said association co-chair Michael James, owner of the Palate Pleasure restaurant. "It's best for us to come together and work collectively," said James.

James is working to send out letters to more organizations in the area. "I plan to reach every single restaurant in the downtown area," he said.

In an effort to help promote the association, the Voulgaris' hired the Cherson group for their advertising needs. "We've determined that a lot of people don't know what's going on in the city," said Michael Schneider, public relations manager of the The Cherson group, at a recent association meeting. The Cherson Group has proposed a series of ads to the with

the common tagline, "Newark's got it cooking."

"We want people to come here, not just for business dinners, but with friends and family," said Tom Marguccio, vice president and creative director of The Cherson Group.

James, who started the association with Voulgaris, said it is a step in the right direction towards bringing people to Newark's eateries.

He said that problems, such as lack of parking in Newark, have had a negative impact on business, since people have to park a distance and walk to his restaurant.

"But banding together with this association, we can work to change that," he said.

Feldman Middleton, general partner and owner of the Commerce Food Court and La Boulangerie Bakery, said as the association involves, it will help Newark's redevelopment.

"This will show people that we have quality restaurants; we want people from the suburbs as well as the city to know about us," he said.

Voulgaris said that individually, Newark restaurants were not receiving much exposure. "But together, we have Newark Councilmen, the New Newark Foundation, all these people extending their arms to us."

"There is no such thing as competition between members of the group," said James. "The more restaurants and services you have, the more people will come to the city, and that benefits everybody."

The 16,000 member New Jersey Restaurant Association has agreed to provide individual restaurants in the association with a reduced membership fee of about \$100, in contrast to the \$300 to \$400 usually



Michael James serves a customer in his gourmet retail store

charged.

"We'll charge them \$100, but we'll give them back \$50 to help them get some capital, and to help increase the group," said John Byrne, the association's vice-president and owner of La Compagne restaurant in Cherry Hill.

Byrne said the association would help the group save money, particularly on insurance rates. It will also give the group credit card incentives and alert them to properties for sale.

A list of members of the Downtown Newark Restaurant and Hospitality Association:

- Euphoria Café
- 17 Academy St.
- Commerce Food Court & La Boulangerie Bakery
- 1136 Raymond Blvd.
- Hamilton Pub
- 27 Central Ave.
- Maize, 50 Park Place
- Palate Pleasure, 55 New St.
- Palate Pleasure Café at the Y

- 600 Broad St.
- Side-Bar & Grill
- 304 University Ave.
- Taste Delight, 108 Halsey St.
- Stella Alpine Restaurant
- The Hunt Room, 160 Frontage Rd.
- The Renaissance Café
- 195 Mulberry St.
- Theater Square Grill
- NJPAC, One Center St.
- DiBenedetto's Ristorante
- 79 Academy St.
- CNG Internet, Inc.,
- Indoor Fine Arts
- Porta Print, Inc.
- Protocol, Inc.
- Mike Vovakas, CPA
- R&R Marketing, L.L.C.
- TopShell

Customers at the Palate Pleasure pore over gourmet delicacies in the store



Horoscope



LIBRA
(September 24 - October 23)

You are ready to conquer any obstacles this week. It may not be a bad idea to spend some time alone, because your criticisms of others may get you in deep water. It's hard to concentrate, and daydreaming won't hurt - unconscious messages have practical value.

SCORPIO
(October 24 - November 22)

This week finds you in tune with your lover or mate, which makes for great fun and accomplishments for the next several days. It looks quite favorable for you to move closer to your goals. If people at work don't argue with you, they will argue around you - keep a low profile.

SAGITTARIUS
(November 23 - December 21)

You need to get away from your hectic routine to be alone with your thoughts. Be confident of success in business dealings. Avoid any unpleasant financial surprises by going over matters to clear up any discrepancies. You can reach a meeting of minds with opponents.

CAPRICORN
(December 22 - January 20)

A friend challenges you to break out of your shell and promote yourself for advancement. Maybe it's time - trust yourself and you'll be happier in the long run. A great career opportunity presents itself, and you'll move ahead without upsetting anyone.

AQUARIUS
(January 21 - February 19)

It's hard to avoid confrontations. Someone you have recently befriended may turn on you. It'll be better to remain silent than be drawn into unnecessary arguments. Travel is favored for the next several weeks. If involved in litigation, expect to win.

PISCES
(February 20 - March 20)

Career advancement seems effortless, so pursue your most cherished goal. Co-workers will welcome your great ideas. It may be a good idea to spend a little bit of time on your own, getting back in touch with yourself. Resolve differences that are putting dis-

IF THIS WEEK'S YOUR BIRTHDAY: You usually prefer to follow the logical path rather than trusting your intuition. However, your intuition can enhance your accuracy about situations when you team it with reason.

tance between you and a loved one.

ARIES
(March 21-April 20)

It's a great week to improve relationships, particularly within the family. This may be the opportune time to reach out to someone who looks up to you, possibly a child. Be alert to all money opportunities, postponing any major decisions for now.

TAUROS
(April 21 - May 21)

You are looking and feeling your best, so use this positive energy to your advantage - get out and accomplish things. Communications with others go well - you are a mind-reader with all around you. Tensions elsewhere may find you taking it out on a loved one.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

Make it a point of getting chores and errands out of the way early, because it looks like rest, relaxation and partying is in store for later. Be aware of the helpful insights surrounding you, rapid advancement at work may be a result of heeding suggestions.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 23)

Personal financial planning is favored. Your intuition is sharpened concerning money matters. You may run into an intense blow-out with a mate or lover - keep your cool, things will straighten out rather quickly. Spend some time by yourself.

LEO
(July 24 - August 23)

It will be a busy week for you. Hard work on your part will bring you closer to your career and personal goals. Be supportive of family members, someone is going through a tough time. Resolve financial concerns you have now, before things get out of hand.

VIRGO
(August 24 - September 23)

You are eager to help out wherever needed, but avoid those who manipulate your actions. Be sure that your efforts go to a good cause. Enjoy a break from the routine for a couple days. Luck will find you with extra dollars you weren't expecting at all.

Misunderstood math gets boost from foundation

By Heidi B. Perlman
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Students who think math is tough to learn can now turn to a new foundation aiming to help them master it.

According to a Roper Starch Worldwide study released last Monday, 80 percent of surveyed students called math "very important" in finding a career after graduation, but just 32 percent rate themselves as being "excellent" in the subject.

The results of this study and others on how students view math has prompted employees of the Cambridge, Mass.-based Akamai Technologies to establish a foundation to make math not only interesting, but more attainable for kids.

Employees who donated to the foundation pitched in amounts ranging from several hundred to more than a million dollars of their own money.

"We wanted to give something back because we know that math is important," said Tom Leighton, one of the directors of the foundation. "It's vital to the future strength of the United States."

Akamai — Hawaiian for intelligent, clever and cool — is a Cambridge-based company that writes software to speed up delivery of streaming media, video and audio on the World Wide Web, reducing Internet congestion in the

process.

How do they do it? Math. "Akamai was conceived and founded on mathematical innovation," said George Conrades, chairman and CEO of Akamai. "This is a first step in creating the next generation of problem solvers for our technology-driven world."

Leaders of the foundation have already set lofty goals for themselves. They plan to establish a college scholarship program to recognize top math students in every state, to sponsor math competitions, and to help develop math education programs for students.

This week the foundation also unveiled a new website, called "The Magic of Math." Filled with trivia, math games and a chat room, the site is manned by Akamai mathematicians, who offer homework help and answer students' questions about math.

"For technology companies to prosper and compete, you need the talent, and for that you need kids who have focused and excelled in math," said Akamai spokeswoman Wendy Ziner. "As a country, our students are lagging right now. We think we can do something about that."

Fifty-three percent of all Massachusetts sophomores failed the math portion of the state's assessment test last year, up slightly from 52 percent in 1998.

And nationally, according to a study by the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., less than 70 percent of all high school seniors have even average math skills.

But the Roper Starch Worldwide survey shows that students are open to suggestions.

Of the more than 500 students surveyed, 84 percent said math was "very important" in finding a career after graduation, and 50 percent said they wish they could learn math over the Internet.

And according to the survey, students want to learn.

In fact, when asked to rate the subjects that would help them most to graduate, 80 percent ranked math first, followed by English, science, foreign languages, physical education and in last place, history.

John Kennelly, president of the International Mathematical Olympiad, said the survey indicated that it is time to explore new modes of learning.

"Our challenge is to foster students' enthusiasm and translate it into desire for further knowledge and sharpened skills," he said.

Tina Straley, director of the Mathematical Association of America, agreed.

"Getting students into the math pipeline has been a problem for a long time," she said. "People always look to science and engineering for jobs, but don't realize that without math, we wouldn't have either one."

The Book It! program encourages reading

The Book It! National Reading Incentive program began its 16th year on Oct. 24. America's largest reading incentive program. For the seventh consecutive year, enrollment in Book It! exceeds 800,000 classrooms with approximately 20 million students in nearly 50,000 elementary schools.

Pizza Hut funds and manages the six-month Book It! Program, which motivates children in grades K through six to keep on reading by rewarding them for their reading accomplishments. Its purpose is to develop in children a lifelong love of reading.

"While pizza, praise and recognition have proven to be very effective in motivating children to read more, we have found that collaborative efforts with other organizations bring new challenges and rewards, as well as a lot of fun, to the basic program. They can also extend our commitment to youth literacy outside the classroom," said Eunice Ellis, director of the Book It! Program.

Book It! in collaboration with NASA, developed the program's optional theme "Space: From Mythology to Technology." A 42-page bibliography of space-related books,

CDs and web sites will give teachers and librarians a wide selection of reading materials and information for students. Book It! has incorporated the space theme into other program materials, including the annual principal's sweepstakes and a dramatic wall poster used to track reading progress.

A relationship between Book It! and the popular book and television character Arthur gives students an opportunity to celebrate his 25th anniversary, which takes place in 2001. The message behind the Arthur books and television series is that being smart and into books is cool.

Arthur and friends are featured in another Book It! reading progress poster, and teachers will find some sure-fire ideas from Arthur for getting their students to read.

Together Book It! and USA Weekend magazine will encourage children to perform good deeds related to reading and literacy on "Make A Difference Day," Oct. 28 — the largest single day of volunteering in America. The classrooms that perform the most creative, impactful and original good deeds will receive recognition and awards that promote reading and help charitable causes.

Book It! Votes for President" was developed with Flying Rhinoceros, an education and entertainment company, to help children learn more about U.S. presidents and the current candidates through reading. A

biography of children's books about the 42 U.S. presidents and interesting literary facts about many of the presidents, and information about the current candidates for president are available on our Book It! web site.

Students will be able to cast their votes for the next president at the site between Oct. 18 and Nov. 1. The winner of the Book It! election will be announced before Election Day on Nov. 7. The National Association of Elementary School Principals has endorsed "Book It! Votes for President."

Outside the classroom, Pizza Hut and the Book It! program have extended their participation in the Arthur Anniversary celebration as sponsor of "Arthur's World" National Traveling Exhibit. The 10-city exhibit will visit children's museums during a five-year period, which began

with the Children's Discovery Museum in San Jose, California, in June 2000. The Children's Museum of Boston created the national tour from the Arthur exhibit that originated there.

Pizza Hut has a long-term relationship with the U.S. Department of Education and its "Read, write, now!" Summer Reading Challenge, in which the company contributes 1.5 million pizza certificates to keep children reading while they're away from school. Pizza Hut and Book It! extended this special relationship by sponsoring U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley's "America Goes Back to School" bus tour of 15 rural communities in seven Mississippi River border states, Aug. 27-31.

For more information about Book It! call 1-800-4-BOOKIT, or visit the web site at: www.bookitprogram.com.

My brother quit drinking and became a lawyer. I think I liked him better as a drunk!

Dear Gwendolyn:

Yesterday my brother came to visit and I told him never to come again. It seems the problem ignited the day he decided to quit drinking. All our family members were proud of him for developing enough willpower to quit. Six months after quitting alcohol abuse, he enrolled in college and after graduating he furthered his education by enrolling into law school.

Since becoming a lawyer, the family is little by little pulling away from him. He married a year ago, and feels somewhat better than the rest of us. You know how that goes once some people become educated.

My neighbors and friends are telling me I should not have talked to him the harsh tone in which I did. But Gwendolyn, I have two sons in federal prison; one incarcerated in the state facility; and a daughter scheduled to go on trial for embezzlement and possession of drugs.

However, I must admit that when they were growing up, I was a little on the wild side — doing everything I shouldn't have. But now I'm trying to do right.

When I asked my brother to defend his niece, he told me that he couldn't and that he would not seek the services of a friend or colleague for me. His excuse was when he tried to tell me about my children and the pattern of life they were adopting, I refused to listen. I admit, several times I told him that he was nothing but a drunk, so how could he attempt to give advice? Yes, I said it. Although I think that's a poor excuse not to help me. I might be wrong, but my brother was a better person when he was a drunk.

Gwendolyn, do you feel I was wrong in my actions.

Beverly

Got a problem? Write to Gwendolyn Baines at: gwenbaines@hotmail.com.

Ask Gwen

Dear Beverly:

Of course you were. He may offer his assistance, but don't depend on it. Seek other legal counsel for your daughter. Also, see if the prison chaplain can talk to your son. Even if they have an extended sentence, they need to serve it with some type of religious belief. It would make their stay of incarceration easier to serve.

I am sorry you failed to realize that although your brother was battling his own personal problem, he could have helped in directing your children to a better path of life. Because you were wild, as you state, apparently they had no guidance. You do not mention a husband, so I must assume your children did not have guidance from a male figure in the home as well. When children are brought up in an environment inductive to negative, they seldom choose the positive.

Don't blame your brother for their failure. Blame at this point has to be placed on you. I want you to call your brother and explain to him that you do understand his decision not to assist. Let him know you are sorry, and really mean it. Beverly. With no guarantees, maybe he will make an effort to do whatever he can to help at this point.

Your brother is the same. He hasn't changed. But people get tired of always being taken for granted — and doing favors for the same people who were once most unkind.

Beverly, never again try to judge the life pattern of an individual based on present actions. It's not that your brother is refusing to help that bothers you. The problem is simple. Think about it. When you looked at him as a drunk, you didn't see an attorney.

Diversions

Fill in the crossword with the answer to clues below.

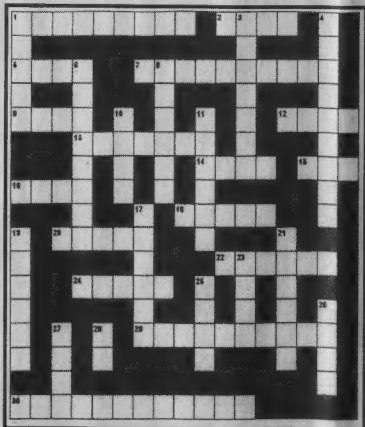
Down

- 1 First woman elected mayor in Washington, D.C.
- 3 This college's name was first known as Ashmun Institute
- 4 First Black director to be nominated for an Academy Award
- 6 He is the founder of the Dance Theater of Harlem
- 8 5 Across was founded by this man
- 10 Jackie Robinson was the first Black on this magazine's cover
- 11 The incident of 7 Across was known as the Waco
- 17 First African American Congressman from Ohio
- 19 The New Negro Theater was founded by this man
- 21 William Robinson
- 23 Exclamation of sorrow or regret
- 25 Rows of seats arranged one behind the other
- 26 United Negro College Fund (abbreviation)
- 27 To declare as untrue
- 28 City where the New Negro Theater was founded (abbreviation)

Across

- 1 First African American hospital
- 2 To pronounce indistinctly
- 5 Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (abbreviation)
- 7 May 8, 1917: He was burned alive in a pub-

- lie square in Texas
- 9 Sharp in taste
- 12 Symbolic ring of light around the head of a saint
- 13 City where 1 Across is located
- 14 To talk in a loud, wild way
- 15 Educational Television (abbreviation)
- 16 Congress of Racial Equality (abbreviation)
- 18 First Black female elected mayor of U.S. city
- 20 First Black to win a Pulitzer Prize for a photograph
- 22 He's the founder of 16 Across
- 24 The "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement"
- 29 He formed the world renowned team
- 30 Film that 4 Down was nominated for



Heartbeat Calendar

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

JERSEY CITY (971 and 17th) — Liberty Health Care is hosting an dramatic portrayal of an African American woman with breast cancer, at 10:00 a.m. For more information call (201) 915-2047.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

PATERSON — St. Joseph's Hospital is "Where Spirituality is Fair" at the facilities from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information call (973) 754-4502

BELLEVILLE — Clara Maass Medical Center is hosting a "Community Health & Safety Fair" at the facilities from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information call (973) 450-2213.

SECAUCUS — Liberty Health Care is offering comprehensive blood screening to Secaucus residents 18 years or older, at the Senior Citizen's Center from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information call (201) 330-2034

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

NEWARK — American Cancer Society is sponsoring a walk to fund research for breast cancer and ovarian cancer. For more information call 1-800-ACS-2345

How to talk to your kids about breast cancer

By Brenda Curtis
American Cancer Society
Regional Executive

Bad news such as finding out you have breast cancer, is never easy to share, especially with your child. For a family facing a new diagnosis of breast cancer, it's natural to be upset and worried. It's also natural to want to protect your child from the pain they may experience from knowing the truth. However, there's nothing more powerful than the truth to help bring a family closer together in a time of need.

The American Cancer Society can help families through this difficult time. We recommend the following guidelines for you and your children:

A child's reaction to this news will depend on many factors, including how information is presented. In a two-parent household, it's best for parents to talk to their child together. For a single parent, it may be a good idea to have a relative or friend present in case you become distraught, being calm is important. While no one wants to alarm their child by being hysterical, it's also important for children to know it's okay to cry when dealing with a crisis.

All children need the following basic information: the name of the cancer, where the cancer is located, how short it will be treated, and how their own lives will be affected. Children under eight years old will not need to know many

details. Older children deserve to know more. Check out our website at www.cancer.org for simple language and a glossary of terms.

Beyond the illness, there are other worries a child may have about breast cancer. Children engage in "magical thinking" and believe they can make all kinds of things happen. Parents need to be cognizant of this, and explain that there was nothing that the child did or didn't do to cause the parent's illness. A child may also worry that cancer is contagious. It's best to correct these inaccuracies before a child has the chance to worry.

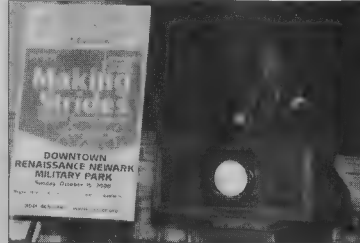
The most important psychological issue for children is their own sense of security and safety. Children depend on their parents for their basic physical and emotional needs and should be reassured that they are loved and their needs will be met.

The possibility of death is the one issue that causes the most distress for families. A child should be told that breast cancer is a serious, but not hopeless illness. Early detection and innovative treatment options are helping women today live longer. A parent's response to treatment will be the determining factor in their battle. While no one can predict the future, families should approach cancer treatment with as much hope as possible.

Remember October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

City of Newark rallies employees to support Annual Breast Cancer Walk

NEWARK — City Councilwoman-at-Large Gayle Cheneilly-Jenkins addresses city employees at a breakfast hosted by the mayor and city council to rally support amongst city employees for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk. Hosting the American Cancer Society's annual breast cancer walk this year for the first time, the city has set an aggressive goal of \$25,000 to be raised by city employees for the event. For more information about participating in the walk or volunteering, call (973) 696-1885.



By Sherry Conohan
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON, (AP) — Legislation to enable patients to sue their health insurance carriers for malpractice, and another bill appropriating \$150 million for transportation projects, topped the state Senate's voting session agenda last Monday.

The right-to-sue bill would allow patients to take their HMOs

to court for negligence if they can show the denial or delay of care adversely affected their health.

"HMOs must be held accountable for the quality health care that New Jersey needs and deserve," said Jerry Flanagan, health care advocate for New Jersey Public Interest Research Group, which has backed the bill. Opponents claim it will invite a flood of frivolous lawsuits.

HMO lawsuit bill tops legislative agenda

Health Highlights

NJ blood shortage is critical

FAST ORANGE The Blood Center of New Jersey is asking local residents to donate a pint of blood this fall to boost blood supply inventories. There is currently a local and national critical shortage of Type O blood. "Since July 3, the Blood Center of New Jersey has been cutting regular shipments of Type O blood to hospitals by 50 percent," said Judy Daniels,

BCNJ spokeswoman. "We are still experiencing severe shortages and need the help and support of the community."

A public awareness campaign this season is focusing on the blood needs of children and residents are asked to give a pint or a halfpint. For every 1,000 pints of blood donated from now until Valentine's Day 2001, 100 teddy

bears will be donated to children in local hospitals. "We are asking our loyal groups that run blood drives to step up their recruitment efforts in an attempt to have more blood available at all times," said Judy Daniels, BCNJ spokeswoman.

Local blood donor locations are listed below

Essex County Ongoing Regional Donor Center at West Orange 421 Pleasant Valley Way West Orange, NJ 07093 Thursdays: 12 p.m. - 7 p.m. Fridays: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Saturday, October 12 Madison West Essex Lodge 9 South Avenue, Caldwell 4:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sunday, October 15 Stained Sacrament Church Van Ness & Clinton Avenue, Newark 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Cadwell	Wednesday, October 18 Brookside Baptist Church 1550 Broad, Bloomfield 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Gen Ridge Chapter American Red Cross 219 Ridgewood Avenue, Bloomfield, 3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Dorothy's Dogs, Bloomfield Central Avenue and South 15th St., Newark 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Elks Lodge #1123 254 Washington Avenue, Belleville, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Knights of Columbus #3533 299 Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Cadwell	Bloomfield & Roseland Avenues, Caldwell Union, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. VFW District 4 828 Sanford Avenue, Newark 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Sunday, October 29 Terra e Shalom 760 Pompton Avenue, Cedar Grove 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Union County Wednesday, October 11 North and Taylor Park lot 609 North Avenue West, Weehawken Mangel's Realtors 367 Chestnut Street Union County Monday, October 16 Union Hospital	1000 Gallop Hill Road , Union, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. Friday, October 20 Union Hospital Gallop Hill Road, Union, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. Sunday, October 22 St. Theresa's Church, Washington Avenue, Kean, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sunday, October 29 Hillside High School 1035 Liberty Avenue, Hillsdale, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Union Elks Lodge 281 Chestnut Street Union, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. YM/YWHA of Union County 501 Green Lane Union, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.
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Risk of contracting HIV high for poor, black women in the South

By Paul Payne
Associated Press Writer

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Among adolescents, disadvantaged black girls in the South have some of the highest HIV infection rates in the United States, say officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The findings, from a study of a Mississippi town where five teenage girls and two men were diagnosed with HIV, underscores the need for better health education and prevention in rural areas, said Helene Gayle, director of the center's HIV prevention section.

"In many rural areas, particularly in the rural South, the resources, historically, have not been there," Gayle said. "We know that the health infrastructure is inadequate. There is more that needs to be done."

Of the 496 cases of HIV reported in Mississippi last year, 26 people, or 5.2 percent, were black females between the ages of 13 and 19, said Mary Currier, state epidemiologist.

Nationwide, 1.6 percent of all reported cases are black females from the same age group, Currier said.

"This is not just an urban disease," Currier said. "It certainly occurs in rural areas as well."

In 1999, the state Department of Health tested 78 people in a social group in the Mississippi Delta town of Greenwood. They found that seven were infected with HIV, said Risa Webb, a staff physician for the state Health Department.

While the seven put at least 37 people at risk, initial tests on 22 of those show no signs of the virus.

Study to find why blacks avoid prostate tests

FAYETTEVILLE (AP) — A \$316,000 Defense Department grant has been awarded Fayetteville State University to find out why black men avoid prostate cancer screenings.

Maxwell Twinn, an assistant psychology professor, will conduct the study over three years under a grant program that targets historically black colleges.

Although black men older than 60 are the group at greatest risk for prostate cancer, Twinn said, they avoid screening for the disease.

"Some say they are afraid it will hurt them," Twinn said. "There are some who are not willing because of finances."



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ENTERTAINMENT BLURBS

NJ gets jazzy with upcoming events

Newark's Bethany Christian Academy host concert series: opera, Klezmer, Latin, Jazz and more

NEWARK—Opera singer Kevin Maynor and pianist Brandt Fredriksen have reached out to fellow internationally acclaimed artists to produce a series of concerts designed for Newark's children and general audiences to enjoy from October-May 2001. Education and exposure to the arts are the focus of these concerts. The "Thursday Children's Series" will be held in the auditorium at the Bethany Christian Academy at 11 a.m.

Newark school children are encouraged to attend these concerts free of charge. The general public is invited to "The Third Sunday Series" at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary of Bethany Baptist Church. Both venues are located at 275 West Market St. in Newark. Tickets to the Sunday concerts can be secured by making minimum donations of \$3 for children and seniors and \$7 for adults. Proceeds from these concert donations will evenly benefit the Academy and the artist's fees. For more details, contact the Academy's ticket hotline at (973) 623-1965.

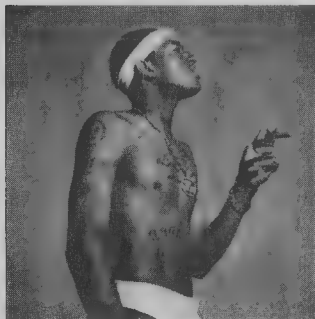
The series begins Oct. 12 and 15 with "Jazz Hymns" from the African-American Church Experience featuring Kevin Maynor, opera: bass. On Nov. 12 and 16 "African Fusion" will



highlight thrilling, traditional South African Zulu music and favorite operatic arias and art songs featuring the South African baritone Thami Zungu.

A special concert on Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. will feature "Klezmer Music" performed by the renowned clarinetist David Krakauer and friends. On Dec. 17 at 3 p.m., the concert is entitled "Latin Passion" and features the music of Piazzolla, (the Father of Nuevo Tango) lead by Villa-Lobos, Granados, and others. Also performing will be Ahn Tung on guitar, Anton Miller on violin, Rafael Figueroa on cello and Brandt Fredriksen on piano.

"A Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr." is scheduled for January 18 and 21, 2001 and features the acclaimed star of New York City Opera's "Porgy and Bess," baritone Richard Hobson.



C-Murder

Visionaries are few-and-far-between in music, especially in the fickle hip-hop community. But artists with keen foresight and a well-defined artistic vision quickly reach icon status. Such is the case with C-Murder. The New Orleans rapper's first two albums, 1998's "Life Or Death" and 1999's "Bossalino," were certified platinum and gold respectively. Despite that impressive recording resume, C-Murder makes his strongest artistic statement with his third album, "Trapped In Crime."

With a masterful combination of meditations on street life, hard-core, songs that cater to fans and braggadocio raps that demonstrate his lyrical prowess, C-Murder pours his heart and soul into his latest album. For C-Murder, the album reflects his real-life experiences. "The album's title just refers to all the stuff I've gone through from album to album," he explains.

C represents his crystal clear storytelling abilities on a song such as the addictive first single, "They Don't Really Know You," which features brother Master P and Enya Fox. This ability is also heard on the somber "Staring At The Walls," where C-Murder raps from the perspective of a man who is incarcerated.

On a brighter note and paying homage to, the housing project in which he was raised, C-Murder lays down the dance floor ready "That Calloope." It still aits with magnum force despite being a

You'll like Rachelle's 'Individuality'

She epitomizes artistry, in its truest form. With her remarkable vocal instrument, weaving a new tapestry of musical colors and textures, "Individuality (Can I Be Me?)" stands alone, incomparable, unique, distinctive. Like a much-needed breath of fresh air, amid a musical landscape noted more for derivation — she's back and without a doubt, better than ever.

With "Individuality (Can I Be Me?)" a brand new eleven-track album — her first new recording in eight years — Ferrell shares her insights and experiences through a record that defies instant categorization or definition. The sole writer of five songs on which she accompanies herself on piano, and the co-writer of the remaining six tunes, the album is very much a personal testimony. In her own words, "Individuality (Can I Be Me?)" is "the documentation of a transformation. There's an organic quality, a continuity beyond whatever I expected when I started making this record. More than anything, this album is honest... it's about my life and it's the result of getting a clear reflection of who I am as an individual."

Music lovers who were entranced by Rachelle's first two albums—her 1992 Capitol debut and 1995's "First Instrument" (on Blue Note Records)—will be delighted at the sheer musicality of her latest offering, while those unfamiliar with her stellar artistry will marvel at the depth of emotion and feeling that she invests into each song. Whether it's the so-so funky-to-the-bone opening cut "Individuality," the equally unrestrained, intense tour-de-force "Why You Wanna Mess It All Up?" or the plaintive, evocative "I Forgive You," Rachelle is in her element, using her remarkable voice to

I've been off the recording scene for several reasons...The truth is, I was fighting for my creative autonomy. It was a battle of epic proportions and I was willing to give up my recording career to stand for what I felt was right and true.

— Singer Rachelle Ferrell



Rachelle Ferrell

soul, swoop, stretch and soothe

"I've been off the recording scene for several reasons," she said candidly. "The truth is, I was fighting for my creative autonomy. It was a battle of epic proportions and I was willing to give up my recording career to stand for what I felt was right and true. It was a hard

something — or fall for anything. Luckily I had the support of my record label through all of this. I am so grateful for that."

Fortunately, the solid audience Rachelle had created with her first two albums kept her busier than ever as a performer.

celebratory tune. C gives another example of his range with "How A Thug Like It," a funky party record produced by Jermaine Dupri that features Da Brat and Dupri.

Also included on the album is the menacing "Down For My N's," which was originally featured on Snoop Dogg's No Limit Top Dogg album. Long-term C-Murder fans will detect a notable shift in the album's production. Whereas his first two albums featured familiar samples and beats, C-Murder expanded his sonic horizons on "Trapped In Crime." The main reason C's new songs sound so distinct is because of the teamwork from Deadly Soundz, who favors a more diverse collection of beats than C-Murder had ever included on one of his albums.

"You've got to have bland, up-tempo, serious, funny, street and hard-core beats on your album," C says. "That's how I feel putting a record together is supposed to be done." And C-Murder would know how to make a hard-hitting hip-hop album. Growing up in a depressed area of New Orleans, C-Murder and brothers Master P and Silk the Shocker observed first-hand many of the atrocities that come with being young, black and poor. But, like his brothers, C-Murder was able to escape from the pitfalls that surrounded him.

In Concert Feel the African beat.

New Jersey Performing Arts Center
One Center Street
Newark, NJ 1-8880

NEWARK —Gaming international raves for their scintillating presentations of Brazilian folk dance composed around Bahian folklore of African origin, "Balk Folclore da Bahia" will appear at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on Friday, Oct. 13, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12-\$48, and may be purchased by telephone at 1-888-GO-NIPAC (1-888-466-5722), or at the NIPAC Box Office at One Center Street, in downtown Newark. The performance is part of the Aena U.S. Healthcare Dance Series.

Founded by its current director Walson Botelho with Ninho Reis in 1987, the troupe is based in the city of Salvador in the northern Brazilian state of Bahia. Salvador's population is largely composed of the descendants of slaves brought from West Africa by the

Portuguese. The 32 member troupe of dancers, singers, and musicians perform a repertoire of works that explode with the sounds and rhythms representing this unique heritage. Yet the overall essence remains a striking blend of the Afro-Brazilian cultures, depicting not only some of the history of Bahia, but the ways in which African traditions have been affected in the New World. Anna Kuseloff, of The New York Times, calls the troupe "exuberant, indefatigable and virtuosic," adding, "What Africa has lost was found or preserved and transformed in Brazil."

Carnival 2000, the company's newest program includes "Capoeira," dances that are a form of Afro-Brazilian martial arts and reveal a history of racial struggle as well, "Maculele" which dramatizes life in the sugar cane plantations of northeastern Brazil, and "Samba de Roda." The finale, "Sainha Reggae" derives from the carnival songs of Bahia.



—Success in their own words—

Former public housing resident triumphs over tragedy

By Keimigh Sirls

If success was measured solely on the amount of money one has, or the kind of material possessions one has acquired over the years, many of us would fall short of that very limited definition.

If, however, success is measured by the triumphs of our life experiences and the little accomplishments that can define the sum total of our lives, then many of us are succeeding every day.

Cloris Curry-Williams, director of the Housing Authority of Newark, knows first hand that success is defined by many accomplishments, and has seen the changes people have made in their lives within the department and in the housing development system.

"There is a myth that a lot of our public housing residents do not work... but that's not true. Not everyone is on welfare... public housing is just a stepping-stone and should be looked at that way," she said.

And many people have used it as a stepping-stone to achieve their dreams and move on to make their communities a better place. Such a person is Vanessa Roberts, who has moved on to do great

things, even in the face of personal pain and heartache.

Vanessa's story in her own words:

I was born and raised in the City of Newark and resided at Baxter Terrace Housing for the majority of my life. I have recently moved from Baxter Terrace. I am a product of the Newark school system, attending Burnett Street School for my elementary education and University High School for my secondary education. Growing up in Baxter Terrace during the 70's and 80's was a wonderful experience. The problems of growing up in the projects were not as prevalent as they are today.

I did not experience or witness the ills of ghetto life such as teenage pregnancy, drug addiction, selling drugs and other crimes for most kids today. Growing up was very pleasant because the residents at that time were like family.

My parents knew everyone I played with, as well as their parents. It was like a village. As the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child," and that is how it was back then. Children did not disrespect adults, and parents were allowed to discipline children.



Vanessa Roberts

My parents were married until I was eight years old. My mother raised my sister and I as a single parent thereafter. My mother was an independent, hard working and God-fearing woman.

She tried to make sure that my sister and I were not deprived emotionally, spiritually and financially. She was an active parent during my elementary and secondary school years. She communicated well with all of my teachers and attended PTA meetings as well as open houses.

Upon graduating from University High, I attended Douglass College.

Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ as an undergraduate. I graduated in May 1991 with my Bachelor's of Arts degree.

My life as a child and a young adult was a happy one until the death of my parents. My father passed away two years prior to my graduation from Douglass College and eight months later my mother died from cancer. This was a rough time for me because at first I did not have steady employment. My sister and I continued living together to support one another to get through these trying times. As a result of my mother's death, I knew that I needed to be gainfully employed, so I began to look diligently for full time employment to pay rent and acquire health care benefits.

I felt in my heart that my mother knew she was dying and said a long prayer to God and asked Him to take care of her daughters. Not too soon after I established permanent employment. I worked for an insurance company in Fairland, NJ. While I was there, I began taking exams for civil service employment. In 1993, I took the exam for Social Caseworker; in July of that year, I received a letter from the City of Newark Personnel Department stating that I was being considered for the

position at the Department of Public Welfare.

While working for the Department of Welfare, I decided that I wanted to advance my education so that I would become more marketable and more skilled in the field of Social Work. In 1996, I decided to attend Rutgers University Graduate School of Social Work as a non-matriculated student to see how well I would perform and make sure I wanted to continue in this field. I acquired 12 credits as a non-matriculated student, and in 1998 I applied for matriculation and was accepted into the program.

After six years of working for the Department of Welfare, I have moved on and am now employed with the Newark Housing Authority, Department of Family Services.

My position is social service coordinator for Baxter Elderly. Meanwhile, I am continuing to attend Rutgers on a part-time basis. My graduation date is May 2001.

I have realized that it does not matter where you live or attended school, whether you've lived in an urban or suburban environment, all it takes is will, motivation, and support from family and friends.

Study looks at digital divide

By Lee Hubbard

The lack of minorities using the Internet, compared to whites, has been called the digital divide. But according to a new study by Jupiter Communications, an e-commerce research firm, income — and not race — should classify the digital divide. The report, "Assessing the Digital Divide(s)," gives projections for Internet use by ethnic group, age, gender and income from 1999 through 2005.

The report states that by 2005, 64 percent of African Americans, and 68 percent of Latino households will be connected to the Internet, compared with current projections in which 36 percent of African American households and 41 percent of Latino households are on-line.

These numbers compare with the white and Asian population: where 76 percent of white households and 84 percent of Asian

American households will be on-line in 2005, up from the current numbers of 54 percent and 69 percent, respectively.

The report goes on to state that the wealthiest households, with incomes over \$75,000, will be the largest segment on-line, with 15 million households on-line by the end of 2000. By 2005, an estimated 20 million of the wealthiest households will be on-line, while there will be only three million households with incomes under \$15,000 on-line by the end of 2000. Come 2005, only nine million low-income households are projected to be on-line.

While the digital divide has been viewed in racial terms, the Jupiter study tends to shatter that myth. But this isn't anything new. Various blacks in the high-tech industry and others following the trends have said that the digital divide is not real.

A study by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Black think tank, confirmed that blacks are slightly below whites when it comes to overall Internet usage. But blacks with incomes over \$90,000 used the Internet more than whites.

"The numbers show there really isn't a digital divide between blacks and whites," said Ken Smikle, founder of Target Market News, a Chicago based marketing agency, which also tracks Black Internet usage. According to a

report by Target Market News, blacks spent \$1.3 billion last year on computer-related products, which was a 143 percent increase from the previous year. This boom in buying computers has helped to shrink the divide.

"If you look at the history of media, African Americans have always embraced media," said Adam Clayton Powell III, vice president of Technology and

Programs at the Freedom Forum, an international foundation dedicated to press and free speech. "It would be a surprise if that was not the case for the Internet."

One of the things Powell thinks is helping to fuel the boom in on-line use amongst blacks is its use as a way of communicating with friends and family members.

"There is a desire to keep in touch with people," said Powell. "This is driving a lot of Internet

use among older people. It is a way for them to keep in touch with older children and grandchildren."

According to researchers for the Pew Internet and American Life Project, 55 percent of Internet users say email has improved communications with family, and 66 percent of Internet users believe contact with friends has increased because of email.

Data for the Jupiter study was based on a survey, conducted in

May, of 30,000 households in the United States. The survey showed that 102 million people were on-line. The study predicted that by 2004, more seniors will be on-line than college students. Vipul Patel, a senior analyst with Jupiter Communications, said that a margin of error cannot be attributed to the report, but that Jupiter Communications was "very confident" about the report's conclusions.

Winter's almost here Get your vehicle ready

PRINCETON—Don't wait for the first whispers of cold air to start blowing before you dress your car for winter. The AAA New Jersey Automobile Club suggests the following steps to make sure your vehicle is outfitted from headlight to taillight for rain and snow.

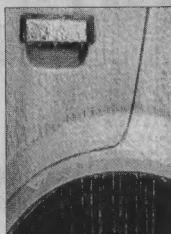
•**Battery.** Cold weather can kill an ailing battery, the cause of many winter breakdowns. Avoid problems by asking your technician to test your car's charging system output and the battery's condition and charge.

•**Fluids.** Remember to change the oil and check the antifreeze, brake, differential, and transmission fluids. Old antifreeze in your car's cooling system may contribute to cooling system failure.

•**Lights.** Enlist a friend to help check you car's high and low beams, and its license plate, fog, parking, side-marker, hazard, turn-signal, reverse, and brake lights.

•**Supplies.** Keep a windshield ice scraper, spray lock defroster (also keep an extra defroster at home), and an extra pair of gloves in the car, and consider packing a folding shovel and some rock salt, sand or kitty litter. If you'll be driving in the mountains, carry chains, blankets, foul-weather gear, flares, and a tarp, just in case you break down.

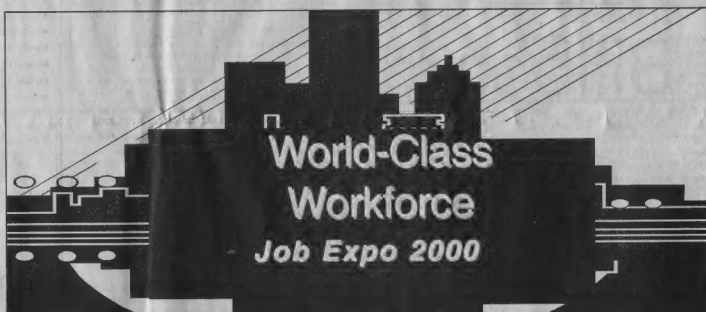
•**Tires.** If your tire treads are shallow, it's time to purchase a



This door is frozen over with ice.

new set of tires. Consider the climate and the type of driving you do when choosing tires. Studded tires are permitted in New Jersey between Nov. 15 and April 1, but they should be used only in packed snow conditions. During the winter, check tires regularly for correct inflation; they lose pressure as the temperature drops.

•**Wipers.** If your wipers leave streaks across your windshield or back window, the blades or tension arms may need replacing. Fill the washer-fluid reservoir with a non-freezing cleaner, and always clear ice that binds your wiper blades before turning on the wipers.



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Business Calendar

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

NEWARK — NJTC hosts "Technology Tour" at UMDNJ from 8:30-10:30 p.m. For more information, call (908) 787-9700.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

SOMERSET — The New Jersey Employer Council is hosting its annual employer conference at the Somerset Marriott from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call (908) 252-7332.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

NEWARK — NJTC hosts "Workplace Mediation" at Alpha Technologies. For more information, call (856) 787-9700.

IRVINGTON — Irvington Urban Enterprise Zone and NJIT host "Introductory Workshop: Government Contracting for Small Businesses" from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Irvington Servicemen's House Club House. For more information, call (973) 395-5555.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

NEWARK — The Urban League of Essex County is hosting a Marketplace for Small Businesses at the Antebellum-Blairstown Companies at 8 p.m. For more information, call (973) 642-9535.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

HAMILTON — The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority will meet. For more information, call (609) 588-2240.

PRINCETON — NJTC hosts "MSA 2000" at Princeton Softsch from 4-6 p.m. For more information, call (856) 787-9700.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

NEWARK — SBA is hosting a free business loan workshop at Newark City Hall from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. To register, call (973) 593-5950.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

NEW YORK CITY — Professional Women in Construction (PWC) and National Minority Business Council host their annual trade show and business-to-business marketplace event at PWC at (212) 687-0010.

NEW YORK CITY — The Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund hosts its 13th Anniversary Awards Dinner at 7 p.m. For further information, call (212) 689-7003.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

NEWARK — The City News "CityNet" initiative hosts the "World-class Workforce Expo 2000" at the Robert Treat Hotel. For further information, call (973) 642-8300 ext. 230.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

NEW YORK CITY — The Port Authority of NY&NJ is hosting an airport concessions workshop for women and minorities interested in airport retail, food, beverage, and concession services at the World Trade Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (212) 435-6037.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

PATERSON — The Center of Management Development is hosting a seminar on how to adjust to the changes in the workforce from 10:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. To register, call (609) 689-9771.

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Jersey City firm offers job opportunities

JERSEY CITY — With local unemployment rates remaining low, employment opportunities are thriving. Job seekers want to take advantage of the hot market and find the job they want with good pay and benefits.

Deirda Farid, L'mani S. Viney, and Holly L. Doan are owners of the new Express Personnel Services office in Jersey City. They are committed to helping people in the area find jobs and recruiting qualified employees for area businesses.

The Jersey City office opened Aug. 15 and provides full and part-time staffing services to several area businesses with a supporting network of over 400 franchises internationally.

"As long-term New Jersey residents, we share the commitment to servicing and becoming an important part of the community," Doan said.

Express Personnel offers Jersey City businesses full-time recruiting, interviewing, drug screening and professional placement services, as well as traditional temporary staffing in a variety of fields, including office ser-

vices, technical, professional and industrial. Express' extensive applicant screening process helps place the right people in the right jobs.

"We're anxious to watch their clients and employees succeed in today's hot market," said Robert A. Funk, founder of the international staffing firm.

The three partners worked in a variety of fields before deciding to go into business for themselves.

Viney, born and raised in the midtown section of Jersey City, attended St. Peter's Grammar and Preparatory High School. After graduating from Boston College, Viney found himself back in the Jersey City community. From 1998 to 2000 he coached the Mariet High School track team. He also acted as an advisor to many of the teenage athletes.

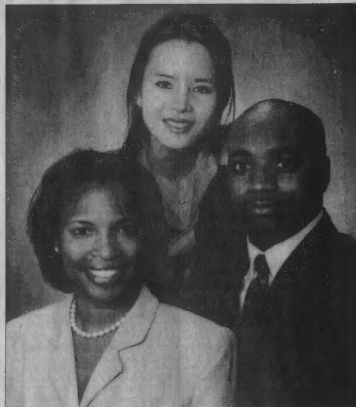
"I love Jersey City and watching the people's success," Viney said. "I want to play my part to give people here the same opportunities that were given to me." Farid, originally from Philadelphia, is also a long-time resident of Jersey City.

Since 1993 Farid has lived in

the downtown section of Jersey City and witnessed first hand the city's incredible transformation into a commercial giant. Farid had been involved in many community activities and through the mentor program Dreams Into Action, she was a one-to-one volunteer mentor for two years. For the past three years, she volunteered with the Girl Scouts as a leader, friend and advisor to young ladies. She plans to bring that same role to the Jersey City community.

Doan is from the Atlantic City area in South Jersey. She attended high school in South Jersey and was currently Rutgers University. Doan relocated to New York after college. However, she continues to have roots in the New Jersey community and has the motivation to help people in Jersey City find good jobs.

The Jersey City Express office, located at 115 Columbus Dr., is currently interviewing applicants. For information on job openings, stop by the office or call (201) 333-9139. Businesses seeking employees can contact Express to place job orders.



(l-r) Deirda Farid, Holly Doan and L'mani S. Viney owners of Express Personnel Services

Owner of Eatontown firm receives SBA's 2000 NJ minority business award

EATONTOWN, NJ — York Wang, CEO of York Telecom Corporation of Eatontown, was named the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) 2000 New Jersey Minority Small Business Person of the Year.

What started as a consulting job for Bell Labs 15 years ago has evolved into a multi-million-dollar videoconferencing company for Wang and his wife Lilly. The company provides its clients a variety of videoconferencing and interactive distance learning services that include system development, network designs, project management, system integration, installation support, and system maintenance.

In making the announcement, SBA New Jersey District Director Francisco A. Marrero, said that Wang was selected for his award based on criteria that includes overall financial strength of the firm;

growth in sales and profits; growth in number of employees; and participation in community and charitable events.

Today, York Telecom Corporation employs over 100 people and has sales in excess of \$16 million. The company is housed in an 18,000 square foot facility in Eatontown with a full videoconferencing laboratory. The firm has successfully engineered and installed over 2,700 videoconferencing solutions.

Some of the company's clients include AT&T, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S.



York Wang

Social Security Administration, National Health Institute, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Fort Monmouth.

In presenting the award to Wang, at the company's Eatontown headquarters, Marrero, said, "The accomplishments and achievements of York Wang are extraordinary. When you see a small company bringing state-of-the-art technology into the marketplace and providing over 100 jobs to people in the community, then you can measure the magnitude of what small businesses contribute to our economy."

"Through Mr. Wang's leadership and guidance, York Telecom Corporation has evolved into a highly successful small business," said Marrero. "It is important for all of us to recognize the progress that minority small business owners continue to make. It is our job, at the SBA, to see that this trend continues throughout the 21st Century."

"It is an honor to be named SBA's 2000 New Jersey Minority Small Business Person of the Year," said Wang. "It is an honor that I share with my wife Lilly and the employees of York Telecom who have worked hard at making this business what it is today."

Marrero also noted that York Telecom Corporation is an SBA certified 8(a) company. SBA's 8(a) Program allows minority-owned and other disadvantaged companies access to federal government contracting opportunities. Since becoming a SBA certified 8(a) company in 1994, York Telecom Corporation has received 26 contracts for \$26.3 million from the federal government.

SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez recently honored Wang and 49 other state winners at the 18th Annual National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Awards Celebration in Washington, DC.

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